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ABSTRACT

This Kids Count special report examines how children born in each state fared on selected measures of a "right start." This statistical portrait is based on trends in eight indicators of well-being: (1) percent of total births to teens; (2) percent of repeat teen births; (3) percent of total births to unmarried women; (4) percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education; (5) percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care; (6) percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy; (7) percent of low birth-weight births; and (8) percent of preterm births. Following an introduction detailing the importance of each indicator, the report is comprised of profiles for each individual state. The data are provided for each year from 1990 to 1998, and data for the United States as a whole are presented to provide a point of comparison. Findings indicate that the most notable signs of progress in the 1990s were a drop in the percentage of mothers receiving late or no prenatal care and a drop in the percentage of mothers reporting smoking during pregnancy. Modest progress was evident in a decline in repeat teen births and a decline in the share of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education. The United States lost ground in the percentage of births that were low birth weight, the percentage of infants born prematurely, and the percentage of total births to unmarried women. Substantial differences were identified by race and Hispanic origin for each indicator except smoking during pregnancy. The report's three appendices contain state rankings by indicator for 1998; definitions, data sources, and reporting issues; and the primary contacts for state Kids Count projects. (KB)

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THE RIGHT START

STATE TRENDS

CONDITIONS OF BABIES AND THEIR FAMILIES ACROSS THE NATION (1990-1998)

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The Annie E. Casey Foundation

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policymakers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children. At the national level, the principal activity of the initiative is the publication of the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. The Foundation also funds a nationwide network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that provide a more detailed community-by-community picture of the condition of children.

Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to studying children, youth, and families through research, data collection, and data analyses. Child Trends conducts basic and applied research and evaluation studies; gathers and analyzes data on the major indicators of children's well-being; develops and tests new measures of child and family well-being; and communicates key research findings to policymakers and the public.

Child Trends/KIDS COUNT Special Report

THE RIGHT START
STATE TRENDS

CONDITIONS OF BABIES AND THEIR FAMILIES ACROSS THE NATION (1990–1998)

Tara Croan, Juliet Hatcher, Justin Jager, Melissa Long, William O'Hare, Richard Wertheimer

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

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Permission to copy, disseminate, or otherwise use information from this *Special Report* is granted as long as appropriate acknowledgment is given.

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This report is also available on the Internet at www.childtrends.org and www.kidscount.org.

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Foreword

What constitutes "the right start" to life? Surely a healthy birth into a family ready and able to meet children's needs is at the top of the list.

In *The Right Start State Trends*, Child Trends and KIDS COUNT report how children born in each state fared on eight selected measures of a "right start." The data are provided for each year from 1990 to 1998 and data for the U.S. as a whole are presented to provide a point of comparison. These measures include some of the factors that medical science tells us promote a healthy birth, including early prenatal care and a tobacco-free pregnancy, as well as health conditions that place a baby at risk, such as prematurity or low birthweight. We also include measures of circumstances that we know from social science research potentially limit a child's future prospects. These include birth to a teen mother, to an unmarried mother, and to a mother with limited education. A companion volume, *The Right Start City Trends*, reports the same data for the nation's 50 largest cities.

The U.S. made progress on some of these measures during the 1990s, despite some continued barriers to health care, persistent racial gaps in birth outcomes, and a teen birth rate which, while declining, still far exceeds rates in other industrialized nations. The most notable signs of progress were:

- A drop in the percentage of mothers in the U.S. who reported getting late or no prenatal care, from 6 percent in 1990 to 4 percent in 1998
- A drop in the percentage of mothers who reported smoking during pregnancy, from 18 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1998. Smoking during pregnancy is associated with low birthweight and infant mortality, as well as negative consequences for child health and development.

Modest progress occurred in two other measures of a right start, specifically:

- A decline in "repeat teen births" – the percentage of *teen* births that were to young women who had already borne a child earlier in their adolescence – from 24 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1998. A single birth to a teen presents serious concerns for the future of both the child and the mother. A second birth only compounds these concerns.
- A decline in the share of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education, from 24 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1998. Research has consistently shown that a mother's educational level is associated with several child outcomes, including infant mortality and a child's educational attainment.

Finally, the U.S. lost ground on three other measures of a right start:

- The percentage of births that were low-birthweight (less than 5.5 lbs.) increased from 7 percent in 1990 to 8 percent in 1998. Low-birthweight babies are at higher risk of death, disability, and other illness than are babies born at normal weight. The increase in low-birthweight births is partly attributable to the increase in births of twins and higher-order multiple births.
- The percentage of babies that were born preterm, or before the 37th week of pregnancy, increased from 11 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1998. Many preterm babies are also low-birthweight and face the same health risks.
- An increase in the percentage of total births to unmarried women, from 28 percent in 1990 to 33 percent in 1998. Most of this increase occurred in the 1990-1994 period, and this figure has been relatively constant the past few years. Children born to unmarried mothers face a greater risk of poor birth outcomes and of poverty than do children born to married mothers.

The Right Start City Trends, the companion to this volume, paints a bleaker picture for babies born in the nation's largest cities. On every measure presented here, except smoking during pregnancy, babies born in urban America fare much worse than those born in the rest of the nation. This contrast compels us to direct our attention and resources to the inner-city neighborhoods that have less to offer children in the way of a healthy and promising start.

Toward this end, the Annie E. Casey Foundation centers its work on the proposition that children do best when their families do well, and families do better when they live in supportive neighborhoods. The Foundation will continue its work with partners in cities across America to rebuild neighborhoods that support families raising children. Child Trends supports this effort through its work with KIDS COUNT and through its commitment to rigorous, nonpartisan research and data on children and families.

Improving birth outcomes and changing the circumstances of pregnancy clearly require a mix of effective public policies, improved services, and

responsible personal choices. As this report illustrates, for each measure of a healthy and promising start to life, there is a diverse group of states that outperforms the nation as a whole, setting a standard for other states to meet. Further progress is well within our reach.

Douglas W. Nelson
President
The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Kristin A. Moore
President
Child Trends

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

In 1999, the Annie E. Casey Foundation published *The Right Start: Conditions of Babies and Their Families in America's Largest Cities*, which provided 1997 city-level data for ten measures that characterize the well-being of newborns in the United States. Similar data for states were presented in the Appendix of that report.

In an effort to increase the usefulness of these indicators, we have expanded the original *Right Start Data Book* in several ways. First, we updated the data through 1998, the most recent year available. Second, we have provided annual data for each year back to 1990. Third, we have provided a one-page narrative description of how each state fared during the 1990-1998 period. Fourth, we are publishing a separate companion book focused on city-level data.

The remainder of this introduction focuses on the data contained in *THE Right Start: State Trends: Conditions of Babies and Their Families Across the Nation (1990-1998)*. There is a similar introduction in the city volume which focuses on the data contained in that publication. In addition, we present the value of each indicator for the top 50 cities, five additional cities, and the 50-city average in a companion City volume titled *The Right Start City Trends: Conditions of Babies and Their Families in America's Largest Cities (1990-1998)*.

States were selected as the focus of one of the *Right Start* Data Books because KIDS COUNT Data Books have traditionally looked at states. States are also used as a unit of analysis because they are a prime locus of policy-making for many of the programs that make a difference in birth outcomes. State decision-making power has increased significantly during the "devolution" era of the 1990s. Finally, states are large enough to provide reliable measures but small enough to reflect significant national differences.

To place our state-level results in context, we also present the value of each indicator for the U.S. as a whole. In addition, we present the value of each indicator for the largest 50 cities in the United States in the companion City volume cited above.

We selected indicators that describe the well-being of infants at birth because conditions at birth often reflect the forces that will shape a young person's life. Indicators such as lack of timely prenatal care and smoking during pregnancy reflect social conditions prior to birth that can affect the health of an infant. Other measures included, such as birthweight and gestation period, reflect health status at the time of birth. Finally, we included three characteristics of the mother (marital status, age, and education) that are likely to reflect conditions a newborn might experience early in life.

We utilize birth certificate data compiled and provided by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) because they provide one of the few sets of systematic measures reflecting child well-being that are available consistently for all states. From the birth certificate data we were able to construct eight measures, expressed as proportions or percents, which reflect some dimension of well-being:

1) Teen Births

2) Repeat Teen Births

3) Births to Unmarried Women

4) Low Maternal Education

5) Late or No Prenatal Care

6) Smoking During Pregnancy

7) Low-Birthweight Births

8) Preterm Births

Findings

This compilation of nine years of data has revealed a number of interesting patterns for the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and for the nation as a whole. In particular, there are broad differences among the states for a number of indicators. State-level socioeconomic, demographic, and economic indicators might offer some explanations for why certain states consistently performed better on many of the indicators, while others typically did worse.

It is important to recognize that the statewide numbers presented here may mask important variations within a state. Studies suggest that negative birth outcomes are part of a constellation of measures that point toward particular neighborhoods with concentrated poverty and diminished opportunity.[1]

While these measures can hardly capture the full range of forces shaping the lives of newborns, the indicators used in this series reflect several important dimensions of a newborn's life. Moreover, these indicators are consistently measured across all of the states and over time, permitting legitimate comparisons. Since many of the conditions related to a birth are linked to

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later developmental problems, the data illuminate future prospects for children in these states.

The key indicators of birth outcomes used here are all taken from data compiled by NCHS and reflect the official data for each indicator. While these measures are not derived from samples, many are based on relatively small numbers of births and therefore may exhibit a degree of random fluctuation from year to year. Since small differences among states may reflect random fluctuations rather than "real" distinctions in the well-being of children, we urge readers to focus on those differences and changes over time that are relatively large.

In the following pages we describe each of the measures in more detail, explain why each measure was selected as an indicator of well-being, and discuss how the measure is related to broad, long-term outcomes.

Teen Births

Teenage childbearing is problematic because it is associated with diminished opportunities for both the child and the young mother. Teen births are particularly troublesome because most of these mothers are unmarried, and a large segment have not completed high school. For example, nationally, only 21 percent of teenagers who gave birth in 1998 were married, and only 38 percent had completed 12 or more years of education.[2, 3]

If a large share of the births in a state is occurring to teenagers, it means that a significant number or proportion of children are starting life with a parent who is unlikely to have the resources needed to provide for a child. Most teenage mothers are not settled in a job or career, and many young fathers are not able to help. Data from the Census Bureau indicate that only 10 percent of mothers ages 15 to 17 received child-support payments in 1997.[4] Data from the March 2000 Current Population Survey show that only 58 percent of all males ages 16 to 19 had any earned income in 1999 and that the average annual income for those who worked was slightly less than $6,000.[5]

Teenage mothers are also more likely to receive late or no prenatal care, although timely prenatal care by teens did increase over the 1990s.[6] They also are more likely to smoke during pregnancy than older mothers. Moreover, unlike other age groups, the percentage of teen mothers who smoke has increased since 1994.[7]

Children born to teenage mothers are less likely to obtain the emotional and financial resources they need to develop into independent, productive, well-adjusted adults. Thus, babies born to teens reflect a group of children who will have to overcome high odds to thrive.

In 1998, 13 percent of all births in the U.S. occurred to teenagers. Massachusetts had the lowest percentage of total births to teenagers (7 percent), while Mississippi had the highest (20 percent). Nationally, the share of births to teenagers stayed nearly constant during the 1990s (13 percent in both 1990 and 1998; see Table 1), although birth rates for teens dropped sharply during the decade.[8, 9, 10] It is important to note that the percentage of total births to teenagers is influenced by the fertility of older women (above age 20) as well as by the childbearing patterns of teens.

Repeat Teen Births

Most teen mothers are ill equipped to provide for one child, and a second one severely compounds that challenge. Therefore, children born to a teenage mother who already has one or more children are unlikely to receive the kinds of support that children need to thrive. Moreover, a high rate of repeat teen births signals a problem with pregnancy prevention programs and offers a key opportunity for policy or program intervention.

Twenty-two percent of all births to teens were repeat births in 1998. The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers ranged from a low of 12 percent in North Dakota to a high of 24 percent in Mississippi. Throughout the U.S., the percentage of teen births that were repeat births decreased from 24 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1998 (see Table 1).

Births to Unmarried Women

Research shows that children growing up with a single mother "are more likely to drop out of school, to give birth out of wedlock, to divorce or separate, and to be dependent on welfare."[11] Numerous recent studies document the importance of fathers in the lives of their children. "Children develop best when they are provided with the opportunity to have warm, intimate, continuous, and enduring relationships with both their fathers and their mothers."[12] Even if a marriage fails, children born into a married couple family have advantages over those born to unmarried women. In 1998, the poverty rate for single-parent families headed by a never-married mother was 55 percent, compared to 35 percent for families headed by a

divorced or separated mother. Also, in 1998, the infant mortality rate of children born to an unmarried mother was almost twice that of children born to married mothers (10.2 compared to 5.7 deaths per 1,000 live births).[13]

Moreover, the likelihood of a child receiving a child-support award reflects the marital status of parents at the time of birth. Data from 1997 indicate that among never-married single parents, only 47 percent had a child-support award in place, compared to 70 percent of divorced single parents. But it should be noted that many custodial parents with child-support awards in place never receive the money that they are due. Only 22 percent of never-married single mothers actually received child-support payments in 1997, compared to 47 percent of divorced single parents.[14]

Finally, unmarried mothers are more likely to receive inadequate prenatal care than are their married counterparts.[15]

Thirty-three percent of all births in the U.S. occurred to unmarried women in 1998. The percentage of total births to unmarried women ranged from a low of 17 percent in Utah to a high of 45 percent in Mississippi. National data show that this proportion increased during the early 1990s, but was stable from 1995 to 1998. The percentage of total births to unmarried women increased from 28 percent in 1990 to 33 percent in 1994 and in 1998 (see Table 1 for 1990 and 1998 data).[16]

Low Maternal Education

Research has consistently shown that the education level of a child's mother is a good predictor of many child outcomes.[17] Consequently, children born to women who have not graduated from high school face tough odds. The infant mortality rate for births to women with less than 12 years of education was 9.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1998, compared to 6.3 for women with at least a high school education.[18] Women who do not get a good formal education are often less likely to provide the kind of educational and intellectual stimulation that their children need. In addition, parents with less education are less likely to be effective advocates for their children when they enter school or encounter problems with other institutions or public systems.

Finally, mothers with less than 12 years of education are more likely to smoke during pregnancy and to receive inadequate prenatal care.[19]

Nationwide in 1998, 22 percent of births occurred to women with low levels of education (less than 12 years). The percentage of total births to mothers with low levels of education ranged from a low of 10 percent in North Dakota to a high of 33 percent in Texas. Nationally, the percentage of total births to mothers with low levels of education declined slightly during the 1990s, going from 24 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1998 (see Table 1).

Late or No Prenatal Care

Mothers who receive timely prenatal care are less likely to have babies with health problems. Failure to obtain early prenatal care may reflect a mother's indifference to her pregnancy or it may reflect a lack of available health care. Either situation is cause for concern. A woman who makes sure that she gets proper prenatal care is also likely to make sure that she does other things to protect her newborn. Failure to find timely prenatal care may also reflect the fact that a woman is in a precarious situation where many other kinds of resources are simply not available.

Nationwide, 4 percent of all births in 1998 occurred to mothers who received late or no prenatal care. Within the U.S., the share of births occurring to women who lacked timely prenatal care in 1998 ranged from a low of 2 percent in Rhode Island to a high of 9 percent in New Mexico.[20] During the 1990s, the U.S. as a whole improved on this statistic. The share of mothers who received late or no prenatal care fell from 6 percent in 1990 to 4 percent in 1998 (see Table 1).

Smoking During Pregnancy

Babies born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy are more likely to have health problems. "Smoking during pregnancy is associated with adverse outcomes, including low-birthweight, intrauterine growth retardation and infant mortality as well as negative consequences for child health and development."[21] Moreover, smoking during pregnancy may be symptomatic of other conditions that reflect an unhealthy approach to pregnancy and childbearing.

Data on smoking during pregnancy from birth certificates in California, New York, Indiana, and South Dakota were either not available or not compatible with NCHS standards. Therefore, these data are missing for these states, and the figure shown under the U.S. Average reflects only the 46 states, plus New York City and the District of Columbia where these data were collected.

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Thirteen percent of all births in the U.S. were to mothers who smoked during pregnancy in 1998. Among the 47 states that collect these data, the rates ranged from a low of 7 percent in the Texas to a high of 26 percent in West Virginia. Nationally, the share of babies born to mothers who smoked during pregnancy has been declining, dropping from 18 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1998 (see Table 1).

Low-Birthweight Births (Less than 5.5 pounds)

While most American children get off to a healthy start, babies weighing less than 2,500 grams (about 5.5 pounds) at birth have a high probability of experiencing developmental problems, suffering from serious illnesses, and dying in the first year of life.[22,23] Therefore, the percentage of low-birthweight births reflects a group of children who are more likely to have health problems as they move through the growth stages than are children born at a normal weight.

Nationally, 298,208 babies were born weighing less than 5.5 pounds in 1998, accounting for 8 percent of all births. The relatively high rate of low-birthweight births in the U.S. raises a number of troubling issues. Research shows that women who do not receive adequate early prenatal care are more likely to give birth to a low-birthweight baby and that mothers who lack health insurance are less likely to seek and obtain prenatal care. According to Census Bureau data for 1999, more than one-third (33 percent) of all male and female Hispanics and more than one-fifth (21 percent) of all male and female black non-Hispanics did not have health insurance. People living in poverty, high school dropouts, and young adults (ages 18 to 24) are among those that are the least likely to have health insurance.[24] Among women of childbearing age (15 to 44), 25 percent of those living in central cities lacked health insurance, compared to 16 percent of those living in the suburbs. Among Hispanic women of childbearing age living in central cities, 41 percent lacked health insurance.[25]

Nearly 8 percent of the total births in 1998 in the U.S. were low-birthweight births. In 1998, Oregon had the lowest rate of low-birthweight births at 5 percent, and Louisiana and Mississippi were tied with the highest rate of 10 percent. During the 1990s, the share of babies born weighing less than 5.5 pounds increased from 7 percent of all births in 1990 to nearly 8 percent in 1998 (see Table 1).

Preterm Births (Less Than 37 Completed Weeks of Gestation)

Babies born preterm often suffer related health and development problems; preterm births are often also of low-birthweight. A shortened gestation period is also related to an increased risk of infant death (death in the first year of life).[26]

Nationwide, 12 percent of births in 1998 were preterm births. New Hampshire had the lowest percentage of births that were preterm in 1998 at 8 percent, while Mississippi had the highest rate at 16 percent. Nationally, the share of babies who were preterm increased from 11 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1998 (see Table 1).

Race and Hispanic Origin

For every measure that characterizes the well-being of U.S. newborns in this volume, there are substantial differences by race and Hispanic origin. With the exception of smoking during pregnancy, births to (non-Hispanic) whites have a lower value for each measure than births to (non-Hispanic) blacks (see Table 2). Values for Hispanics often, but not always, fall in between the values for whites and blacks. In 1998, for example, 9 percent of U.S. births to whites were to teen mothers, compared with 22 percent of births to blacks and 17 percent of births to Hispanics. Given these racial and ethnic differences, it is not surprising to note that differences seen among states are often related to differences in racial and ethnic composition in the states. States in which black and/or Hispanic births are a large percentage of total births tend to have higher values for most measures than states in which most births are to whites.

At the same time, it is important to recognize that many of the differences between whites and minorities reflect differences in things such as educational attainment, income, and the availability of high-quality services. For example, 9 percent of U.S. births to women with less than 12 years of education are low-birthweight, compared with only 6 percent of births to women with at least 16 years of education. Since 30 percent of white births are to women with at least 16 years of education, compared with 11 percent for blacks, part of the apparent racial difference in low-birthweight births is due to differences in the educational attainment of white and black mothers.

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Birth outcomes are often examined by race and Hispanic origin because they are easily available. Questions about race and Hispanic origin status are included on births certificates in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, while many important measures of socioeconomic status (e.g., family income) are not. Consequently, while racial and ethnic differences are easily calculated it is not possible to tabulate the measures of well-being used in this publication by critical measures such as the mother's poverty status.

In short, the racial and ethnic differences in birth outcomes are real, but it is important to recognize that many of those differences actually reflect differences in things like income, education and availability of effective services.

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TABLE 1

U.S. Birth Outcomes: 1990 and 1998

	Percent		Number of states with statistically significant changes from 1990 to 1998		
Indicator	**1990**	**1998**	**Increase**	**No change**	**Decrease**
Percent of total births to teens	13	13	13	14	24
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers**	24	22	0	10	40
Percent of total births to unmarried women*	28	33	49	0	1
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education*	24	22	9	5	35
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	6	4	2	5	44
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy***	18	13	0	1	45
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 pounds)	7	8	45	5	1
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	11	12	47	2	2

SOURCES: For 1990 data: "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1990." Monthly Vital Statistics Report, Vol. 41, No. 9, suppl. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. For 1998 data: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., Mathews, J.J, Park, M.M. (2000), "Births: Final Data for 1998," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 3. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

*Not all states are included in the 1990 U.S. average for this indicator because data were not reliable for every state.

**Not all states are included in the 1998 U.S. average for this indicator because data were not reliable for every state.

***Not all states are included in the 1990 and 1998 averages for this indicator because data were not collected for every state.

TABLE 2

Percentage of U.S. births with selected characteristics by race and Hispanic origin, 1998

Race/ethnicity	Teen births	Repeat teen births	Births to unmarried women	Low maternal education	Late or no prenatal care	Smoking during pregnancy	Low-birthweight births	Preterm births
White non-Hispanic	9	18	22	13	2	16	7	10
Black non-Hispanic	22	27	69	27	7	10	13	18
Hispanic	17	24	42	49	6	4	6	11

SOURCES: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin, S.C., Mathews, J.J., and Park, M.M. (2000), "Births: Final Data for 1998," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 3. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. Curtin, S.C. and Martin, J.A. (2000), "Births: Preliminary Data for 1999," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 14. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

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STATE PROFILES

Alabama

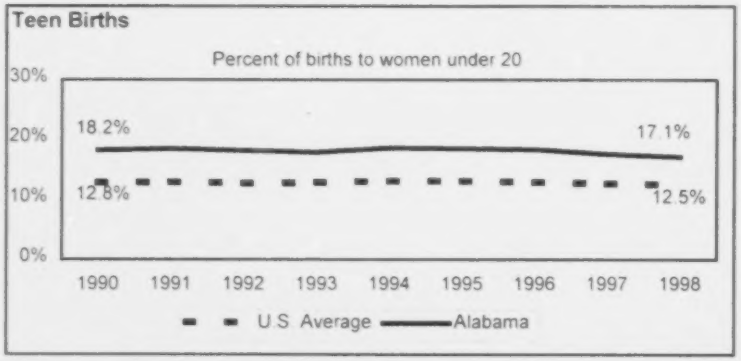
The yearly number of births in Alabama fell from 63,487 in 1990 to 62,074 in 1998. During this time, nearly two-thirds of total births were to whites, and nearly one-third were to blacks.*

During the 1990-1998 period, Alabama experienced changes in all eight measures of a healthy start to life, generally mirroring the trends in the national average. The more significant changes include drops in the percentages of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and to women who received late or no prenatal care, as well as an increase in the share of births to unmarried women. When compared with the 1998 U.S. average, the children of Alabama got off to a less healthy start to life on six of eight measures, including the proportion of births to teenage mothers (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Despite a slight overall drop in the share of births to teens, teen births consistently accounted for a substantially greater share of births in Alabama than in the U.S. overall. In 1998, 17 percent of Alabama births were to teens, compared with a national average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s but underwent an overall decline, mirroring the trend in the U.S. average. Repeat teen births made up 23 percent of Alabama teen births in 1998, compared with 26 percent in 1990.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Births to unmarried women increased from 30 percent of total births in 1990 to 34 percent in 1993 through 1998. The nation as a whole experienced a similar upward trend.
- **Low maternal education.** The share of Alabama births to women with less than 12 years of education fell from 26 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 23 percent in 1998. This change paralleled the drop in the U.S. average.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Alabama saw a reduction in the percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care, from 6 percent in 1990 to 4 percent in 1993, remaining stable thereafter. Alabama matched the national average for this indicator in both 1990 and 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** There was a notable drop in the proportion of Alabama births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 17 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1998. Alabama generally remained below the national average throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of Alabama babies born at a low birthweight increased from 8 percent in 1990 to 9 percent in 1993 through 1998. Throughout this time, low-birthweight births were more common in Alabama than in the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births remained notably more prevalent in Alabama than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990s. In 1998, preterm births accounted for 14 percent of Alabama births, compared with 12 percent of births in the nation overall.

In summary, Alabama saw changes in all eight measures of a healthy start to life, generally reflecting changes in the U.S. averages. Improvements include reductions in the percentages of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and to women who received late or no prenatal care. However, Alabama saw increases in the percentages of preterm and low-birthweight births, and in the share of births to unmarried women--three indicators for which the state was already above the respective national averages in 1990. In addition, when compared with the U.S. average, the proportion of births to teens remained high throughout the 1990-1998 period.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Alabama		18.2	18.5	18.2	17.9	18.6	18.5	18.4	17.6	17.1
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Alabama		26.2	26.4	27.1	24.2	22.1	22.2	23.2	22.6	23.0
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Alabama		30.1	31.9	32.6	33.5	34.5	34.5	33.7	33.9	34.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Alabama		26.0	26.1	25.8	25.4	25.0	24.0	23.9	23.5	23.3
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Alabama		6.1	5.3	4.7	4.2	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Alabama		16.5	16.4	15.1	14.6	13.7	13.4	13.0	12.5	12.6
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Alabama		8.4	8.7	8.5	8.7	9.0	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.3
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Alabama		13.1	13.2	13.2	13.8	14.1	13.5	13.9	14.3	14.3
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Alabama**	White non-Hispanic	40,778	40,296	39,774	39,508	39,132	39,073	39,326	39,402	40,203
		Black non-Hispanic	21,830	21,616	21,488	21,067	20,615	19,830	19,536	19,798	20,021
		Hispanic	344	400	444	509	579	758	936	1,056	1,345
		Other	535	498	554	622	613	668	690	658	505
		Total	**63,487**	**62,810**	**62,260**	**61,706**	**60,939**	**60,329**	**60,488**	**60,914**	**62,074**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Alaska

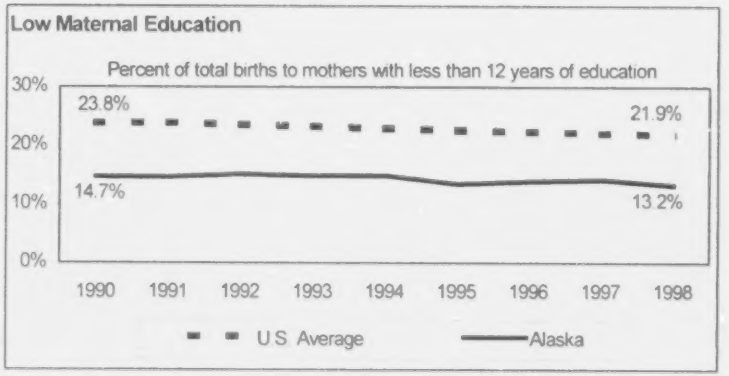
During the 1990s, there was a marked overall drop in the total number of yearly births in Alaska, from 11,902 in 1990 to 9,926 in 1998. At the same time, the small percentage of births to Hispanics doubled, from 3 percent in 1990-1992 to 6 percent in 1995 through 1998.* There were 2,381 births to American Indians, Eskimos, and Aleuts in 1998—nearly one-quarter of Alaska's births.**

During this period, Alaska experienced a marked rise in the share of births to unmarried women and a notable overall drop in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy. The percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education remained well below the national average throughout the 1990s (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990s, the proportion of Alaska births to teens accounted for a smaller share of births in Alaska than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, 11 percent of Alaska births were to teenagers, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** The small fluctuations during the 1990s in the percentage of Alaska teen births to young women who were already mothers were not significant. At 20 percent in 1998, Alaska was similar to the national average on this indicator.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Alaska saw a notable increase in the share of births to unmarried women, from 26 percent in 1990 to 31 percent in 1996 through 1998. The U.S. as a whole saw a similar upward trend.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education consistently made up a substantially smaller share of births in Alaska than in the nation as a whole. Thirteen percent of Alaska births in 1998 were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with a national average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Alaska births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care fell from 4 percent in 1990 to 3 percent in 1992-1996, and then rose to a high of 5 percent by 1998. Alaska went from below the U.S. average in 1990 to above it by 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy fluctuated during the 1990s but decreased overall, from a high of 23 percent in 1992 to a low of 18 percent in 1998. Smoking during pregnancy remained considerably more common in Alaska than in the nation overall throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Despite a rise in the percentage of Alaska babies born at a low birthweight—from 5 percent in 1990 through 1993 to 6 percent in 1997 and 1998—low-birthweight births were consistently less prevalent in Alaska than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** The proportion of births that were preterm in Alaska fluctuated between 8 percent and 10 percent during the 1990s. Alaska remained below the national average on this measure throughout this time.

In summary, Alaska saw an increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women and an overall decrease in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy. While the proportion of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education remained well below the U.S. average during the 1990s, the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy was considerably greater than the national average throughout this time.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** These births account for 85 percent of the "Other" category. Asians and Pacific Islanders account for the rest.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Alaska		9.7	10.5	10.9	10.8	11.5	11.2	11.1	11.2	11.2
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Alaska		21.1	21.8	20.5	21.5	19.7	17.9	18.5	19.3	20.1
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Alaska		26.2	26.9	27.4	28.0	29.3	29.9	31.0	30.6	31.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Alaska		14.7	14.6	15.1	14.8	14.9	13.4	13.9	14.2	13.2
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Alaska		3.8	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.8	3.3	3.3	4.4	4.5
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Alaska		21.9	23.2	23.3	21.6	21.6	19.2	20.5	19.3	18.4
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Alaska		4.8	4.7	4.9	4.9	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.9	6.0
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Alaska		9.0	8.6	9.3	9.3	9.1	8.0	10.1	10.2	10.0
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Alaska**	White non-Hispanic	7,779	7,561	7,590	7,106	6,897	6,581	6,300	6,110	6,148
		Black non-Hispanic	529	507	531	570	461	421	387	444	386
		Hispanic	328	367	373	439	580	574	651	609	593
		Other	3,266	3,251	3,232	2,958	2,740	2,668	2,699	2,784	2,799
		Total	**11,902**	**11,686**	**11,726**	**11,073**	**10,678**	**10,244**	**10,037**	**9,947**	**9,926**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Arizona

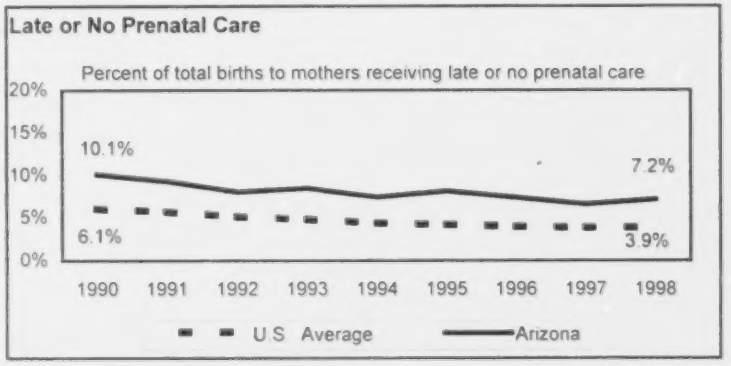
There was a marked increase in the yearly number of births in Arizona during the 1990s, from 68,995 in 1990 to 78,243 in 1998. While births to both whites and blacks decreased from 1990 to 1998, births to Hispanics increased dramatically.* Hispanics accounted for 38 percent of Arizona births in 1998, compared with 29 percent in 1990.

During this nine-year span, Arizona experienced a sharp reduction in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and a substantial increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women. The share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care declined in the 1990s, but was still higher than the national average (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, teenagers accounted for a larger proportion of births in Arizona than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, 15 percent of Arizona births were to teens, compared with a national average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who already had a child fluctuated somewhat during the 1990s, but underwent an overall decrease, from 25 percent in 1990 through 1993 to 22 percent in 1998. Arizona was on par with the U.S. average in 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Arizona saw a substantial increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women during the 1990s, from 33 percent in 1990 to 38 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, the percentage of Arizona births to unmarried women remained above the national average, which exhibited a parallel upward trend.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education consistently made up a larger share of births in Arizona than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 30 percent of Arizona births were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with the U.S. average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Arizona experienced a reduction in the percentage of births that were to women who received late or no prenatal care during the 1990s, from 10 percent in 1990 to 7 percent in 1998. The U.S. as a whole also saw a decline on this measure, and Arizona remained above the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The percentage of Arizona births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy fell from 15 percent in 1990 to less than 8 percent in 1998. This dramatic decline outpaced the downward trend for the nation as a whole. Throughout the 1990s, the proportion of Arizona births to women who smoked during pregnancy was lower than the national average.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of Arizona babies born at a low birthweight remained just below the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 7 percent of births in Arizona were low-birthweight, compared with 8 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** The proportion of Arizona births that were preterm fluctuated between 10 percent and 11 percent during the 1990s. Throughout this time, Arizona was near the U.S. average for this indicator.

In summary, Arizona experienced a striking reduction in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, and was below the national average on this indicator throughout the 1990s. However, the proportion of births to women who received late or no prenatal care remained substantially higher than the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. An increase in the share of births to unmarried women, already above the national average in 1990, is also noteworthy.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Arizona		14.2	14.8	15.0	15.1	15.3	15.1	14.9	14.9	15.1
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Arizona.		25.2	24.7	25.0	24.5	22.5	20.8	21.8	22.7	22.0
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Arizona		32.7	35.1	36.2	37.9	38.3	38.2	38.8	37.6	38.4
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Arizona		28.8	30.6	33.3	30.1	29.3	29.2	29.5	29.3	29.5
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Arizona		10.1	9.3	8.1	8.5	7.4	8.2	7.4	6.6	7.2
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Arizona		15.0	14.3	12.6	12.4	12.2	11.5	10.3	8.7	7.6
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Arizona		6.4	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.9	6.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Arizona		10.2	10.2	10.6	11.1	11.3	11.3	10.3	11.2	11.4
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Arizona**	White non-Hispanic	39,775	38,214	37,790	36,517	36,597	38,474	38,602	37,860	38,621
		Black non-Hispanic	2,527	2,482	2,399	2,272	2,322	2,166	2,249	2,375	2,465
		Hispanic	19,663	20,552	21,862	22,579	24,135	25,504	27,901	28,472	29,682
		Other	7,030	6,861	6,778	7,688	7,792	6,319	6,570	6,992	7,475
		Total	**68,995**	**68,109**	**68,829**	**69,056**	**70,846**	**72,463**	**75,322**	**75,699**	**78,243**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Arkansas

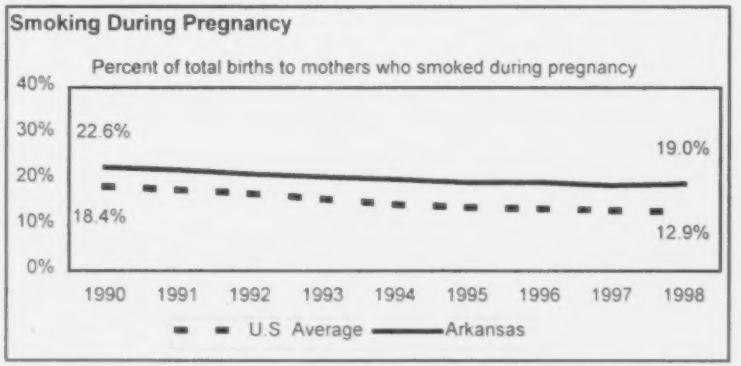
The yearly number of births in Arkansas dropped from 36,457 in 1990 to 34,289 in 1993, and then rose to 36,865 by 1998. In 1998 whites accounted for 72 percent of total births, while blacks accounted for 22 percent. Hispanic births quadrupled in the 1990s and accounted for 5 percent of total births in 1998.*

Over the 1990-1998 period, Arkansas experienced a decrease in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy (see figure). However, there was a sizable increase in the share of births to unmarried women. Moreover, when compared with the national average, the children of Arkansas got off to a less healthy start to life on all eight measures in 1998.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births consistently accounted for a substantially greater share of births in Arkansas than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 19 percent of Arkansas births were to teenage mothers, compared with 13 percent of births in the nation overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Arkansas teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s, dropping from a high of 26 percent in 1991 to a low of 21 percent in 1995, and then rising to 24 percent in 1997 and 1998. Repeat teen births made up a larger proportion of births in Arkansas than in the U.S. as a whole in 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Arkansas saw a considerable increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women during the 1990s, mirroring the trend in the U.S. average. Unmarried women accounted for 35 percent of Arkansas births in 1998, compared with 29 percent in 1990.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to mothers with less than 12 years of education became a smaller share of Arkansas births during the 1990s, falling from 26 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 23 percent in 1995 through 1998. The nation as a whole experienced a similar downward trend.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care fluctuated during the 1990-1998 period, undergoing an overall decrease from 7 percent in 1990 to 5 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, Arkansas was above the national average for this indicator.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The proportion of Arkansas births to women who smoked during pregnancy dropped from 23 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 1995-1998. There was a stronger downward trend in the national average, and smoking during pregnancy remained strikingly more common in Arkansas than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of Arkansas births that were low-birthweight remained just above the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, low-birthweight babies accounted for 9 percent of births in Arkansas, compared with 8 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births were slightly more prevalent in Arkansas than in the nation overall throughout the 1990s. In 1998, 13 percent of Arkansas births were preterm, compared with a national average of 12 percent.

In summary, Arkansas' children got off to a less healthy start to life on all eight measures, when compared with the 1998 U.S. average. In addition, there was a marked rise in the proportion of births to unmarried women. However, Arkansas saw notable reductions in the proportions of births to women with less than 12 years of education and to women who smoked during pregnancy. There were also declines in the percentages of teen births that were repeat births and births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Arkansas		19.7	19.9	19.4	19.4	20.1	19.6	19.8	19.2	18.6
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Arkansas		25.9	26.5	26.0	22.9	22.8	20.7	23.1	23.7	23.5
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Arkansas		29.4	29.9	31.0	31.7	32.6	32.9	33.9	34.2	35.0
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Arkansas		25.8	25.9	25.0	24.0	23.6	23.4	22.9	23.0	22.8
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Arkansas		7.0	6.8	6.5	5.7	6.1	6.3	6.8	5.8	5.1
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Arkansas		22.6	22.0	21.1	20.5	20.0	19.3	19.3	18.6	19.0
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Arkansas		8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.9
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Arkansas		12.5	12.8	12.2	12.6	12.7	12.0	12.2	12.5	13.3
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Arkansas**	White non-Hispanic	27,055	26,425	25,828	25,403	25,594	25,962	26,572	26,506	26,545
		Black non-Hispanic	8,492	8,288	8,133	7,822	7,806	7,648	7,871	7,799	7,970
		Hispanic	414	379	472	579	782	1,004	1,315	1,542	1,724
		Other	496	387	387	485	536	561	613	631	626
		Total	**36,457**	**35,479**	**34,820**	**34,289**	**34,718**	**35,175**	**36,371**	**36,478**	**36,865**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

California

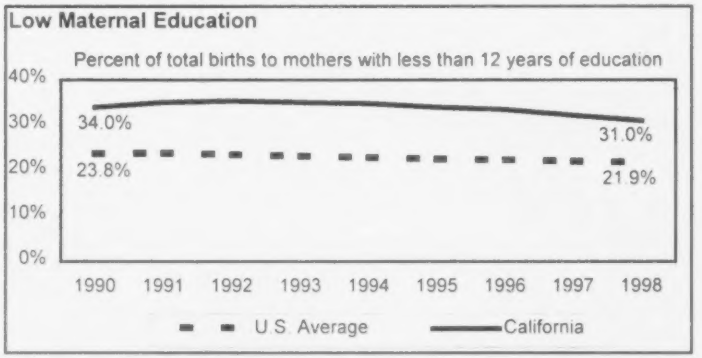
There was a substantial decrease in the yearly number of births in California, from 612,628 in 1990 to 521,661 in 1998. This drop was due to marked reductions in births to both whites and blacks. Births to Hispanics rose slightly during this period.* Hispanics accounted for almost 48 percent of California births in 1998, compared with 40 percent in 1990.

During the 1990s, California experienced a sharp drop in the percentage of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care. However, the share of births to California mothers with less than 12 years of education remained above the U.S. average throughout this time (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births accounted for 12 percent of California births in 1990 through 1997, and slightly more than 11 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, California remained below the national average, where a steady 13 percent of births were to teen mothers.
- **Repeat teen births.** During the 1990s, California saw an overall drop in the proportion of teen births to young women who were already mothers, from 23 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 21 percent in 1998. California remained close to the U.S. average on this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The trends in the proportion of births to unmarried women in the 1990s reflect, at least in part, changes in coding practices in the state of California.** In 1998, California was on par with the national average of 33 percent.
- **Low maternal education.** From 1990 to 1998, both California and the nation as a whole experienced a decline in the proportion of births to women with less than 12 years of education. However, California was substantially above the U.S. average throughout this time. In 1998, births to women with less than 12 years of education accounted for 31 percent of California births, compared with 22 percent of births in the U.S. overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care in California dropped markedly over the 1990-1998 period, from 7 percent in 1990 to less than 4 percent in 1996 through 1998. This change outpaced the downward trend for the U.S. as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Data on smoking during pregnancy were not available for California births.
- **Low-birthweight births.** During the 1990s, the share of California babies born at a low birthweight remained relatively stable and below the national average. In 1998, 6 percent of California births were low-birthweight, compared with almost 8 percent of births in the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births accounted for 10 percent of California births during the 1990-1998 period. Throughout this time, California was slightly below the U.S. average on this measure.

In summary, California saw declines over the 1990-1998 period in the share of teen births that were repeat births, the proportion of births to women receiving late or no prenatal care, and the percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education. Furthermore, the percentages of teen, low-birthweight, and preterm births in California were below the respective national averages in 1998. The share of births to women with less than 12 years of education, however, remained well above the national average throughout the 1990s.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** In 1995 California changed the method by which it inferred marital status to take into account naming conventions of Hispanics. In 1997, California began asking for mother's marital status directly. For more details, see Appendix 2.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	California		11.6	11.8	11.8	12.0	12.3	12.4	12.0	11.7	11.4
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	California		22.6	23.0	23.8	23.3	22.1	21.4	21.8	21.8	21.2
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	California**		31.6	33.5	34.3	35.3	35.7	32.1	31.4	32.8	32.8
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	California		34.0	35.1	35.4	35.0	34.8	33.9	33.5	32.2	31.0
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	California		7.0	6.4	5.3	5.0	4.9	5.2	3.8	3.7	3.6
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	California***		N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	California		5.8	5.8	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	California		9.8	9.8	9.7	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	10.1	10.3
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	California****	White non-Hispanic	255,913	242,274	228,252	213,326	204,476	196,695	185,659	177,863	176,886
		Black non-Hispanic	48,004	46,756	45,510	43,497	41,510	39,284	37,133	36,109	35,282
		Hispanic	245,592	258,005	263,525	262,313	257,750	254,001	254,895	248,948	247,854
		Other	63,119	63,042	64,443	66,188	64,194	62,065	61,746	61,920	61,639
		Total	**612,628**	**610,077**	**601,730**	**585,324**	**567,930**	**552,045**	**539,433**	**524,840**	**521,661**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**See text, footnote ** in text, and Appendix 2.

***N.A. = Not Available. See Appendix 2 for more details.

****The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Colorado

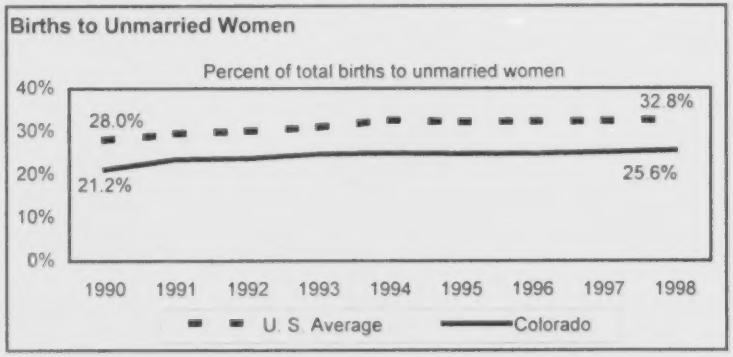
The yearly number of births in Colorado increased from 53,525 in 1990 to 59,577 in 1998. This rise was due to a substantial increase in births to Hispanics, who accounted for almost 25 percent of Colorado births in 1998, compared with 17 percent in 1990.*

During the 1990-1998 period, the children of Colorado got off to a healthier start to life on several measures, when compared with the national average. In addition, there were two striking changes during this time–a dramatic drop in the proportion of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and a sizable increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births made up a slightly smaller share of births in Colorado than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990s. Births to teens accounted for between 11 percent and 12 percent of Colorado births over the 1990-1998 period, compared with the steady national average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Colorado teen births to young women who already had a child fluctuated somewhat during the 1990s, but underwent an overall decline from 22 percent in 1990 to 20 percent in 1998. Colorado was below the U.S. average on this measure throughout this time.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Over the 1990-1998 period, the proportion of Colorado births to unmarried women increased from 21 percent in 1990 to almost 26 percent in 1998. This overall increase from 1990 to 1998 paralleled a similar trend for the U.S. as a whole, although births to unmarried women were less common in Colorado than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Low maternal education.** Between 18 percent and 19 percent of Colorado births during the 1990s were to women with less than 12 years of education. Colorado was consistently below the national average on this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care remained stable at 5 percent from 1990 to 1995, and then decreased slightly to 4 percent thereafter. In 1998, Colorado was just above the U.S. average on this measure.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** During the 1990s, Colorado experienced a remarkable drop in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, from 18 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1998. This change outpaced the downward trend for the nation as a whole, leaving Colorado below the U.S. average throughout most of the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The proportion of babies born at a low birthweight in Colorado was just above the U.S. average throughout the 1990s. In 1998, low-birthweight births accounted for 9 percent of Colorado births, compared with 8 percent of births in the nation overall.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births made up a slightly smaller share of births in Colorado than in the nation overall throughout the 1990s. In 1998, 11 percent of Colorado births were preterm, compared with 12 percent of births in the U.S. as a whole.

In summary, when compared with the U.S. average, Colorado's children got off to a healthier start to life on a number of indicators during the 1990s. Moreover, the state experienced a dramatic reduction in the proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy. However, there was also a notable increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women during this time.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Colorado		11.3	11.8	12.0	11.9	12.3	12.1	11.9	11.9	12.1
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Colorado		21.8	22.3	22.7	20.3	18.5	17.8	19.5	18.9	20.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Colorado		21.2	23.6	23.8	24.8	25.0	24.9	24.8	25.2	25.6
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Colorado		17.8	18.8	18.2	18.0	18.0	18.1	18.7	18.9	19.4
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Colorado		5.0	4.8	4.9	5.1	4.6	5.1	4.5	3.9	4.3
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Colorado		18.1	17.8	15.5	14.9	13.3	12.7	12.6	10.9	11.0
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Colorado		8.0	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.4	8.8	8.8	8.6
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Colorado		9.6	10.1	10.3	10.2	10.4	10.7	10.7	11.0	11.2
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Colorado**	White non-Hispanic	39,791	39,487	39,512	39,156	38,930	38,142	38,667	38,685	39,936
		Black non-Hispanic	2,832	2,820	2,919	2,849	2,679	2,518	2,452	2,487	2,761
		Hispanic	9,278	9,803	10,303	10,268	10,667	11,523	12,375	13,217	14,654
		Other	1,624	1,703	1,801	1,749	1,795	2,149	2,313	2,144	2,226
		Total	**53,525**	**53,813**	**54,535**	**54,022**	**54,071**	**54,332**	**55,807**	**56,533**	**59,577**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Connecticut

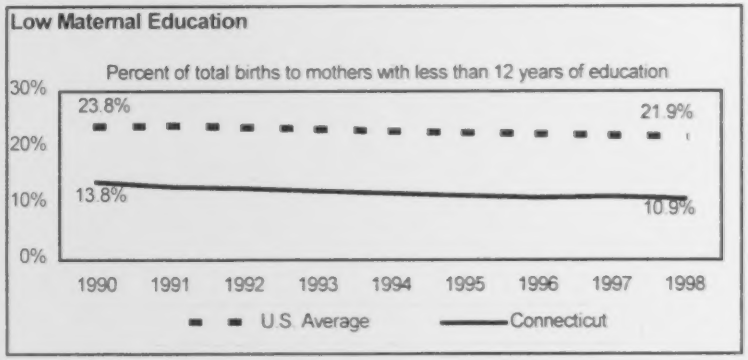
The yearly number of births in Connecticut decreased from 50,123 in 1990 to 43,820 in 1998. At the same time, births to Hispanics increased, from 5,318 (11 percent of total births) in 1990 to 6,224 (14 percent of total births) in 1998.*

In 1998, the children of Connecticut got off to a healthier start to life on six of the eight measures, when compared with the U.S. average. Moreover, the state experienced drops between 1990 and 1998 in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and in the proportion of teen births to young women who were already mothers. Finally, the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education remained well below the national average throughout the 1990s (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births were strikingly less common in Connecticut than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In both 1990 and 1998, teenagers accounted for 8 percent of births in Connecticut, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of teen births to young women who already had a child fell from a high of 27 percent in 1992 to 21 percent in 1998. The nation as a whole saw a similar downward trend.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Overall, unmarried women accounted for an increasing share of total births in Connecticut during the 1990-1998 period, paralleling the trend for the U.S. as a whole.** Among Connecticut births in 1998, 31 percent were to unmarried women, compared with 27 percent in 1990.
- **Low maternal education.** The proportion of Connecticut births to women with less than 12 years of education dropped from 14 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1996 through 1998. In 1998, births to mothers with less than 12 years of education were only half as common in Connecticut as in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** During the 1990-1998 period, births to women who received late or no prenatal care accounted for a smaller share of births in Connecticut than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, 3 percent of Connecticut births were to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, compared with 4 percent of births in the nation overall.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Connecticut experienced a reduction in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, from 13 percent in 1990 to 9 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the downward trend in the U.S. as a whole, and Connecticut remained below the national average on this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** There was a slight overall increase in the proportion of births that were low-birthweight in Connecticut, from 7 percent in 1990 to 8 percent in 1998. Connecticut was on par with the national average for this indicator throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births were somewhat less prevalent in Connecticut than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990s. In 1998, preterm babies made up 10 percent of births in Connecticut, compared with 12 percent in the U.S. overall.

In summary, when compared with the national average, Connecticut's children got off to a healthier start to life on six of the eight indicators in 1998. The state also saw reductions in the shares of teen births that were repeat births, births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, and births to mothers with less than 12 years of education. At the same time, there was a rise in the proportion of births to unmarried women.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** Connecticut began determining marital status by direct question in June 1998. Births to unmarried women may be somewhat overstated in all years. See Appendix 2 for more details.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Connecticut		8.2	8.2	8.0	8.0	8.5	8.6	8.2	8.3	8.3
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Connecticut		24.8	24.1	27.0	23.1	19.0	20.0	19.7	20.0	20.7
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Connecticut**		26.6	28.0	28.7	29.8	30.5	30.6	31.3	32.7	31.2
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Connecticut		13.8	13.0	12.7	12.2	11.8	11.4	11.1	11.3	10.9
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Connecticut		3.3	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.3	1.9	3.0
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Connecticut		13.4	13.2	12.9	11.4	10.8	10.4	9.9	9.7	9.4
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Connecticut		6.6	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Connecticut		8.9	9.3	9.1	9.6	9.2	9.7	9.5	10.2	10.3
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Connecticut***	White non-Hispanic	34,207	33,737	33,228	32,664	31,684	30,867	30,617	28,433	28,845
		Black non-Hispanic	5,199	5,451	5,349	5,199	4,836	4,974	4,845	4,896	4,990
		Hispanic	5,318	5,234	5,476	5,381	5,297	5,505	5,651	5,709	6,224
		Other	5,399	4,144	3,520	3,456	3,838	2,988	3,356	4,071	3,761
		Total	**50,123**	**48,566**	**47,573**	**46,700**	**45,655**	**44,334**	**44,469**	**43,109**	**43,820**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2

**See footnote ** in text and Appendix 2

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Delaware

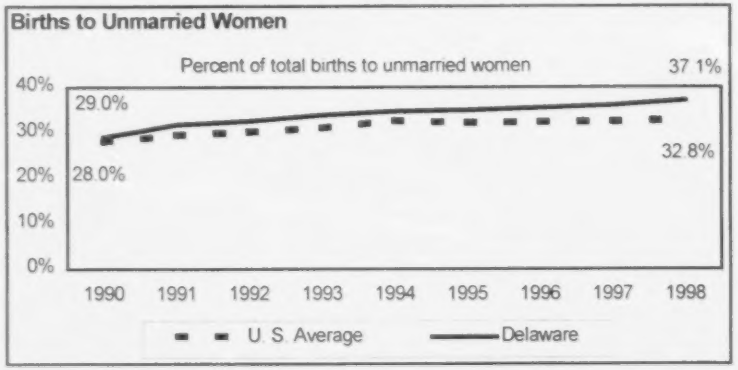
There was a slight reduction in the yearly number of births in Delaware from 11,113 in 1990 to 10,578 in 1998. All of this decline was accounted for by a decline in births to whites. At the same time, the Hispanic share of total births more than doubled, from 3 percent of births in 1990 to 7 percent of births in 1998.*

Delaware experienced a substantial increase in the share of births to unmarried women (see figure) and a marked decrease, followed by a partially offsetting increase, in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy. However, Delaware did not differ greatly from the U.S. average for most measures of a healthy start to life in 1998.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births made up between 12 percent and 14 percent of Delaware births during the 1990s. In 1998, Delaware was not significantly different than the U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Delaware teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s, undergoing an overall drop from 26 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1998. This change—most of which occurred between 1992 and 1993—paralleled the overall downward trend for the nation as a whole.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a dramatic increase in the share of Delaware births to unmarried women during the 1990s, from 29 percent in 1990 to 37 percent in 1998. This change outpaced the rise in the U.S. as a whole and widened the gap between Delaware and the national average.
- **Low maternal education.** The percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education fluctuated but rose overall from 16 percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 1998. Despite this increase—and a small decrease in the U.S. average—births to women with less than 12 years of education continued to make up a smaller share of births in Delaware than in the nation as a whole in 1998.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The share of births in Delaware to women who received late or no prenatal care fell from a high of 5 percent in 1991 to a low of 3 percent in 1995, and then rose to 4 percent in 1998. The U.S. as a whole also saw an overall decline in this measure, and Delaware was even with the U.S. average in 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The percentage of Delaware births to women who smoked during pregnancy dropped from 20 percent in 1990 to a low of 13 percent in 1995, and then rose to 15 percent in 1998. There was a steadier, sizable downward trend in the national average during the 1990s. Smoking during pregnancy was somewhat more common in Delaware than in the U.S. as a whole in 1998.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight births accounted for 7 to 9 percent of Delaware births during the 1990-1998 period. The state was just above the national average on this indicator in 1998.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births became a larger proportion of Delaware births over the 1990-1998 period, rising from a low of 10 percent in 1993 to a high of 13 percent in 1998. In 1998, preterm births were somewhat more prevalent in Delaware than in the nation as a whole.

In summary, Delaware saw a considerable increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women, a sharp drop and then partial rebound in the proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, and a decrease in the share of teen births that were repeat births. In general, Delaware did not differ greatly from the national average for most indicators of a healthy beginning in 1998.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Delaware		11.9	12.2	12.4	12.5	13.2	13.2	13.7	13.4	13.1
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Delaware		26.4	26.1	27.8	23.4	21.1	22.2	20.2	21.1	22.4
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Delaware		29.0	31.8	32.6	33.8	34.7	34.9	35.5	36.0	37.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Delaware		16.2	17.1	18.7	17.8	17.8	17.8	17.7	17.2	18.3
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Delaware		4.5	5.2	4.7	3.8	3.6	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.6
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Delaware		19.6	18.8	16.4	15.0	14.0	13.2	14.0	14.2	14.9
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Delaware		7.6	7.9	7.6	7.8	7.4	8.4	8.5	8.7	8.4
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Delaware		11.1	12.2	10.8	10.3	10.6	11.9	12.0	12.3	12.6
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Delaware**	White non-Hispanic	8,055	7,725	7,504	7,510	7,324	7,134	6,899	6,864	6,937
		Black non-Hispanic	2,564	2,831	2,502	2,363	2,315	2,326	2,348	2,462	2,604
		Hispanic	323	407	426	472	526	585	660	637	753
		Other	171	227	224	223	246	221	248	290	284
		Total	**11,113**	**11,190**	**10,656**	**10,568**	**10,411**	**10,266**	**10,155**	**10,253**	**10,578**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

District of Columbia

The yearly number of births in the District of Columbia dropped markedly during the 1990-1998 period, from 11,850 in 1990 to 7,686 in 1998. Births to blacks accounted for the vast majority of total births throughout this period, including about three of every four births in 1998.* The drop in births was due primarily to a consistent decline in births to blacks since 1991, but all groups experienced declines.

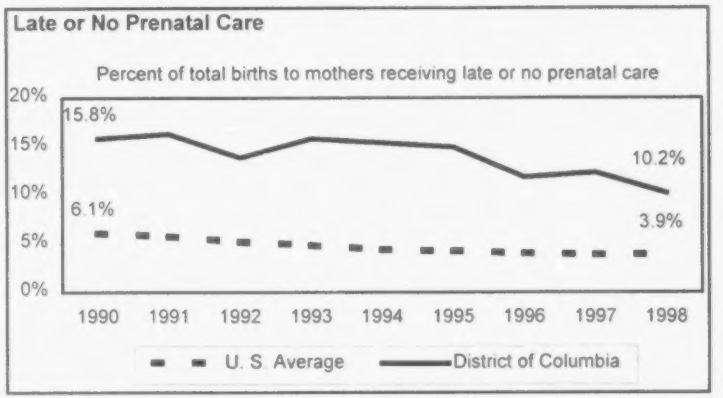
During this same time period, the District saw improvements on all eight measures of a healthy start to life. The most striking changes were drops in the percentages of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and to mothers who received late or no prenatal care (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The proportion of births to teenagers declined from 18 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 1998. This change brought the District closer to the national average, which remained steady at 13 percent during the 1990s.**
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the nine-year period, from as high as 35 percent in 1993 to as low as 28 percent in 1998. The District remained substantially above the U.S. average throughout the 1990s.**
- **Births to unmarried women.** The percentage of births to unmarried women rose from 65 percent in 1990 to a high of 69 percent in 1994, and then dropped to 63 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, births to unmarried women were markedly more common in the District than in the nation as a whole.**
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education became a smaller share of total births during the 1990s, falling from 31 percent in 1990 to 25 percent in 1998. This change narrowed the gap between the District and the national average on this indicator.**
- **Late or no prenatal care.** There was a striking reduction in the percentage of total births to women who received late or no prenatal care, from 16 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the trend in the national average. However, the District remained well above the national average on this measure in 1998.**
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The District saw a dramatic decline in smoking during pregnancy that surpassed the downward trend in the U.S. as a whole. The percentage of total births in the District to mothers who smoked during pregnancy fell from 16 percent in 1990 to 5 percent in 1998. The District was well below the national average on this indicator throughout the 1990-1998 period.**
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of low-birthweight babies declined from 15 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1998. However, the District remained substantially above the U.S. average throughout the 1990s.**
- **Preterm births.** There was a slight overall decline in the percentage of births that were preterm, from 21 percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 1998. Throughout the 1990-1998 period, preterm births remained notably more common in the District than in the nation as a whole, where 12 percent of births were preterm in 1998.**

In summary, the District of Columbia experienced improvements in all eight indicators during the 1990s, including especially striking reductions in the percentages of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and to mothers who received late or no prenatal care. Other sizable changes include drops in the percentages of births to teens and to women with less than 12 years of education.

Despite these important improvements, the District's children got off to a less healthy start to life on seven of eight indicators in 1998, when compared with the U.S. average. When making this comparison, however, it should be recalled that, unlike the 50 states, the District of Columbia is restricted to the city of Washington and contains no suburban or rural areas.**



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** To compare the District of Columbia with other large cities, see *The Right Start: City Trends*.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	District of Columbia		17.8	17.4	16.3	17.4	16.4	16.3	16.7	15.6	15.3
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	District of Columbia		31.0	33.0	34.5	34.9	32.1	30.1	31.0	31.0	28.0
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*25.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	District of Columbia		64.9	66.3	66.9	67.8	68.8	65.8	66.1	63.6	62.9
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	District of Columbia		31.2	31.4	30.1	31.9	31.5	28.9	30.1	26.5	25.2
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	District of Columbia		15.8	16.3	13.9	15.8	15.4	14.9	11.8	12.3	10.2
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	District of Columbia		16.3	13.2	13.0	10.2	9.7	8.3	7.0	5.5	4.8
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	District of Columbia		15.1	15.4	14.3	14.6	14.2	13.4	14.3	13.4	13.1
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	District of Columbia		20.7	20.5	18.7	20.3	19.9	18.5	18.4	18.3	18.5
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	District of Columbia**	White non-Hispanic	1,640	1,401	1,319	1,355	1,260	1,354	1,247	1,274	1,314
		Black non-Hispanic	9,030	9,185	8,521	8,154	7,618	6,736	6,131	5,677	5,435
		Hispanic	890	865	893	930	850	685	777	694	730
		Other	290	325	227	190	202	239	235	282	207
		Total	**11,850**	**11,776**	**10,960**	**10,629**	**9,930**	**9,014**	**8,390**	**7,927**	**7,686**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Florida

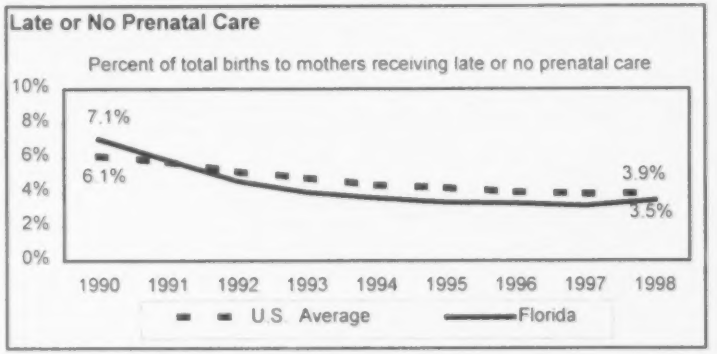
The yearly number of births in Florida declined from 199,339 in 1990 to 188,723 in 1995, followed by an increase to 195,637 by 1998. The net decrease was due to a large reduction in births to whites that was partially offset by an increase in births to Hispanics. Hispanics accounted for 20 percent of Florida births in 1998, compared with 14 percent in 1990.*

During the 1990s, Florida experienced several improvements on measures of a healthy start to life, including considerable reductions in the percentages of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, teen births to young women who were already mothers, and births to women receiving late or no prenatal care (see figure). However, there was also a marked rise in the share of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Births to teens accounted for between 13 percent and 14 percent of Florida births during the 1990s. Teen births were slightly more common in Florida than in the U.S. as a whole, where a steady 13 percent of births were to teen mothers.
- **Repeat teen births.** There was an overall decline in the percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers, from a high of 28 percent in 1991 to 22 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, Florida was just above the national average on this measure.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The share of Florida births to unmarried women increased from 32 percent in 1990 to 37 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the upward trend for the nation as a whole, where births to unmarried women were less common than in Florida throughout the 1990s.
- **Low maternal education.** During the 1990s, the percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education declined steadily, from 25 percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 1997 and 1998. This decrease brought Florida from slightly above the national average in 1990 to just below the average in the latter part of the 1990s.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The proportion of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care in Florida was cut in half, from 7 percent in 1990 to 3.5 percent in 1998. Florida was below the U.S. average for this measure from 1992 through 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy became a substantially smaller share of Florida births over the 1990s, decreasing from 18 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1998. Florida was just below the U.S. average on this indicator throughout most of the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight babies accounted for between 7 percent and 8 percent of births in Florida during the 1990-1998 period, running slightly higher than in the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Throughout the 1990s, preterm births made up a slightly larger share of births in Florida than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 13 percent of births in Florida were preterm, compared with the national average of 12 percent.

In summary, during the 1990s, Florida experienced sizable declines in the proportions of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, and repeat teen births. Over the same time, the state also saw a notable decrease in the proportion of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education. However, there was also a rise in the share of births to unmarried women.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Florida		13.9	13.9	13.5	13.4	13.7	13.7	13.4	13.4	13.2
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Florida		26.6	27.8	27.7	25.0	22.8	22.2	22.6	22.5	22.5
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Florida		31.7	33.0	34.2	35.0	35.7	35.8	35.9	36.0	36.6
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Florida		25.0	24.4	24.0	23.2	22.9	22.3	21.8	21.4	21.3
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Florida		7.1	5.9	4.6	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.5
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Florida		18.3	17.0	16.3	15.1	13.8	12.9	12.2	11.4	11.2
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Florida		7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.9	8.0	8.1
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Florida		11.6	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.9	11.8	11.9	12.4	12.6
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Florida**	White non-Hispanic	123,514	118,154	115,131	114,016	111,500	108,831	107,900	107,757	107,754
		Black non-Hispanic	45,362	44,681	43,954	43,470	42,299	41,191	41,305	42,546	43,483
		Hispanic	27,570	28,183	29,367	31,550	32,895	34,509	35,699	37,369	39,540
		Other	2,893	2,983	3,261	3,501	3,960	4,192	4,488	4,711	4,860
		Total	**199,339**	**194,001**	**191,713**	**192,537**	**190,654**	**188,723**	**189,392**	**192,383**	**195,637**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Georgia

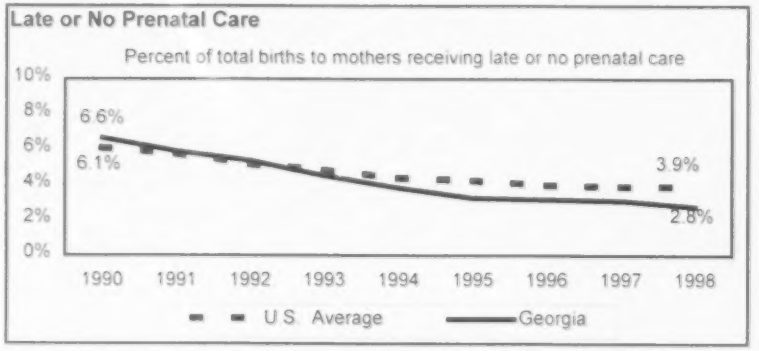
The yearly number of births in Georgia increased from 112,666 in 1990 to 122,368 in 1998. The proportion of births to Hispanics more than tripled during this period, from 2 percent in 1990 to almost 7 percent in 1998.*

Georgia experienced improvements over the nine-year span, including marked reductions in the proportions of teen births to young women who were already mothers, births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, and births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births decreased from 17 percent of total births in 1990 to 15 percent in 1998. Despite this decrease, Georgia was still higher than the national average of 13 percent in 1998.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Georgia teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s, ranging between 23 percent and 29 percent of teen births. Between 1990 and 1998, Georgia experienced an overall drop in the share of teen births that were repeat births, but repeat births were still more common in Georgia than in the U.S. overall in 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** During the 1990-1998 period, both Georgia and the nation as a whole experienced an increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women, with Georgia consistently above the national average on this measure. In 1998, 36 percent of births in Georgia were to unmarried women, compared with the U.S. average of 33 percent.
- **Low maternal education.** Georgia saw an overall decrease in the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education during the 1990s, from 25 percent in the early 1990s to 23 percent in 1995 through 1998. Births to women with less than 12 years of education were slightly more common in Georgia than in the nation overall throughout this time.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Georgia births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care fell from 7 percent in 1990 to 3 percent in 1995, and remained relatively stable thereafter. This remarkable drop from 1990 to 1998 outpaced the downward trend for the nation as a whole and left Georgia below the U.S. average from 1993 through 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Georgia witnessed a striking drop in the proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy during the 1990s, from more than 15 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1996 through 1998. The U.S. as a whole saw a similar decline on this measure from 1990 to 1998, although Georgia remained below the national average throughout the period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of Georgia births that were low-birthweight remained stable and slightly above the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, approximately 9 percent of Georgia births were low-birthweight, compared with nearly 8 percent of births in the U.S. overall.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births accounted for 13 percent of Georgia births in 1990 and 1991 and 12 percent of births thereafter. The percentage of preterm births in Georgia was above the U.S. average from 1990-1995. In 1996-1998, Georgia matched the U.S. average on this measure.

In summary, Georgia experienced large declines during the 1990s in the percentages of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, and teen births that were repeat births. Despite these improvements, Georgia's record was worse than the national average on five of the eight indicators in 1998. Moreover, there was a notable rise during the 1990s in the proportion of births to unmarried women.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Georgia		16.7	16.7	16.2	16.1	16.2	16.3	15.9	15.5	15.0
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Georgia		28.1	28.4	29.1	26.8	24.2	22.9	23.7	23.9	24.1
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Georgia		32.8	34.6	35.0	35.8	35.5	35.2	35.0	35.4	36.2
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Georgia		25.3	25.8	25.0	24.5	23.7	23.3	23.3	23.2	23.0
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Georgia		6.6	5.9	5.4	4.5	3.8	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.8
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Georgia		15.5	14.1	13.4	12.5	11.8	11.2	10.4	9.9	9.7
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Georgia		8.7	8.6	8.5	8.7	8.6	8.8	8.5	8.8	8.5
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Georgia		12.8	12.7	12.5	12.5	11.8	11.7	11.4	11.6	11.6
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Georgia**	White non-Hispanic	68,005	65,513	65,794	65,281	65,309	66,497	66,346	67,874	69,495
		Black non-Hispanic	40,412	40,173	40,279	39,707	38,852	38,217	38,167	39,404	40,913
		Hispanic	2,263	2,587	2,932	3,467	4,363	5,067	6,266	7,164	8,239
		Other	1,986	2,015	2,111	2,167	2,487	2,501	3,264	3,779	3,721
		Total	**112,666**	**110,288**	**111,116**	**110,622**	**111,011**	**112,282**	**114,043**	**118,221**	**122,368**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Hawaii

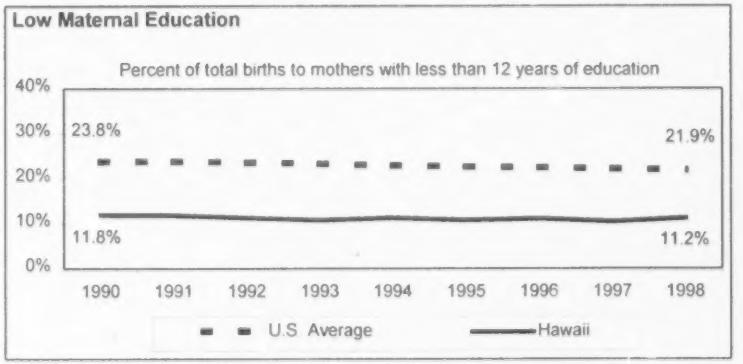
There was a drop in the yearly number of births in Hawaii from 20,489 in 1990 to 17,583 in 1998. This decline was most evident among whites, who accounted for 3,529 births in 1998, compared with 5,472 in 1990.* In 1998, births to "Other" races (which were nearly all to Asians and Pacific Islanders) were 64 percent of total births.

During this nine-year span, Hawaii experienced striking drops in the percentages of teen births to young women who were already mothers, births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care, and births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy. Furthermore, when compared with the 1998 national average, the children of Hawaii got off to a significantly healthier start to life on seven out of eight measures, including the percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education (see figure). There was, however, a marked increase in the share of births to unmarried women during the 1990s.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** During the 1990s, the proportion of births to teens in Hawaii remained relatively stable and lower than the national average. In 1998, 11 percent of births in Hawaii were to teenagers, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990-1998 period but underwent an overall decrease, from a high of 22 percent in 1993 to a low of 17 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the downward trend in the U.S. overall, and Hawaii remained below the national average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a substantial rise in the share of births to unmarried women in Hawaii that outpaced the upward trend in the U.S. as a whole. Births to unmarried women made up 32 percent of Hawaii births in 1998, compared with 25 percent in 1990.
- **Low maternal education.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, births to women with less than 12 years of education remained strikingly less common in Hawaii than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, 11 percent of births in Hawaii were to mothers with less than 12 years of education, compared with a U.S. average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care fluctuated during the 1990-1998 period, undergoing an overall decrease from 6 percent in 1990 through 1993 to 3 percent in 1998. The U.S. as a whole experienced a similar but steadier downward trend.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** There was a sharp drop in the proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 12 percent in 1990 to 8 percent in 1997 and 1998. The nation as a whole also experienced a sizable downward trend, but Hawaii remained below the U.S. average for this indicator throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of babies born at a low birthweight in Hawaii remained on par with the national average throughout the 1990s. In 1998, low-birthweight babies accounted for 8 percent of total births both in Hawaii and in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm babies accounted for 10 percent of Hawaii births in 1990 through 1992 and 11 percent of births thereafter. Preterm births were slightly less prevalent in Hawaii than in the nation overall in 1998.

In summary, during the 1990s, Hawaii saw marked drops in the percentages of teen births that were repeat births, births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, and births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy. In addition, Hawaii's children got off to a significantly healthier start to life on all but one indicator in 1998, when compared with the U.S. average. Throughout the nine-year span, the percentage of Hawaii births to women with less than 12 years of education remained well below the national average. However, there was a large increase in the share of births to unmarried women in Hawaii during the 1990s.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Hawaii		10.5	10.6	10.0	10.1	10.5	10.1	10.4	10.1	10.7
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Hawaii		20.5	20.8	20.8	21.6	17.6	18.5	18.4	17.2	16.6
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Hawaii		24.8	26.1	26.2	27.2	28.3	29.2	30.3	29.9	31.5
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Hawaii		11.8	11.8	11.2	10.8	11.2	10.8	11.0	10.4	11.2
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Hawaii		5.9	5.7	5.7	6.0	3.1	3.6	3.5	4.6	3.1
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Hawaii		12.5	12.1	11.4	9.7	8.6	8.4	8.6	8.0	8.5
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Hawaii		7.1	6.8	7.2	6.8	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.5
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Hawaii		10.0	10.3	10.3	10.5	11.2	10.8	10.7	10.6	11.1
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Hawaii**	White non-Hispanic	5,472	5,224	5,084	4,858	4,728	4,311	4,118	3,766	3,529
		Black non-Hispanic	651	597	654	602	601	540	489	550	524
		Hispanic	2,437	2,230	2,241	2,192	2,176	2,029	2,164	2,147	2,240
		Other	11,929	11,871	11,885	11,941	12,012	11,715	11,630	10,930	11,290
		Total	**20,489**	**19,922**	**19,864**	**19,593**	**19,517**	**18,595**	**18,401**	**17,393**	**17,583**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Idaho

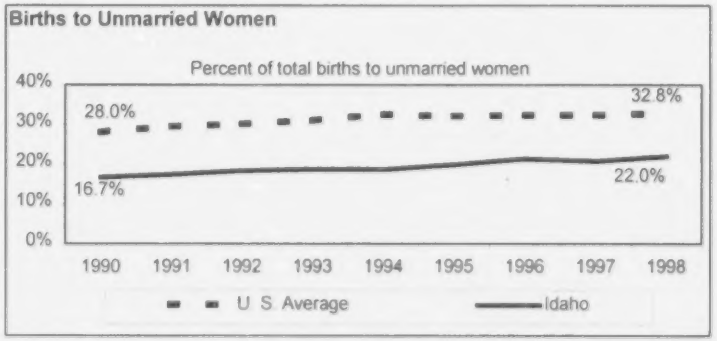
The yearly number of births in Idaho rose from 16,433 in 1990 to 19,391 in 1998. This increase was evident across all racial-ethnic groups but was most evident among Hispanics. Hispanics accounted for 13 percent of Idaho births in 1998, compared with just 9 percent in 1990.*

During the 1990s, Idaho experienced an increase in the share of births to unmarried women (see figure) and a drop in the share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care. Overall, the changes in measures of a healthy start to life in Idaho were generally small and tended to mirror the trends in the U.S. average.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The percentage of Idaho births to teens was similar in 1990 and 1998 despite a rise and fall in this percentage during the nine-year period. In 1998, the proportion of Idaho births to teens was on par with the national average at 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers was similar in 1990 and 1998. This percentage, however, dipped from 20 percent in 1990 to a low of 17 percent in 1995, and then rose to 19 percent by 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** During the 1990s, Idaho experienced an increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women, from 17 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1998. This change paralleled the rise in the U.S. average, but births to unmarried women remained substantially less common in Idaho than in the nation as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Low maternal education.** There was a slight overall drop in the share of total births to women with less than 12 years of education, from a high of more than 20 percent in 1991 to 18 percent in 1998. The U.S. as a whole saw a similar small downward trend, and women with less than 12 years of education continued to account for a somewhat smaller percentage of births in Idaho than in the nation each year throughout the 1990s.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Idaho births to women who received late or no prenatal care fell from 6 percent in 1990 to 4 percent in 1994, remaining relatively stable thereafter. This change mirrored the downward trend for the U.S. as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Idaho saw a decrease in the proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 16 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 13 percent by 1998. However, there was a larger drop in the U.S. average, and Idaho went from below the U.S. average in 1990 to simply matching it by 1998.
- **Low-birthweight births.** During the 1990-1998 period, the percentage of Idaho births that were low-birthweight remained relatively stable and below the national average. In 1998, 6 percent of Idaho babies were born at a low birthweight, compared with a national average of 8 percent.
- **Preterm births.** The percentage of births that were preterm fluctuated somewhat during the 1990s but underwent an overall increase, from 9 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1998. Nonetheless, Idaho remained below the U.S. average throughout this time.

In summary, Idaho experienced five significant changes in measures of a healthy start, often paralleling the trends in the national average. These include a rise in the percentage of births to unmarried women and a decrease in the share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care. Throughout the 1990-1998 period, the share of Idaho births to unmarried women and the percentages of low-birthweight and preterm births remained substantially lower than the U.S. average.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Idaho		12.3	13.3	13.0	13.4	13.1	14.0	13.5	12.7	12.8
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Idaho		20.2	21.1	21.0	20.5	17.7	16.5	18.2	20.0	19.1
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Idaho		16.7	17.4	18.3	18.7	18.7	19.9	21.3	20.7	22.0
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Idaho		19.5	20.4	19.9	19.4	19.0	18.7	19.3	19.0	18.1
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Idaho		5.9	5.5	5.2	4.5	4.5	4.1	4.5	4.2	4.4
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Idaho		15.9	16.2	15.7	14.7	14.1	13.7	14.3	13.2	13.1
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Idaho		5.7	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.9	5.8	6.3	6.0
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Idaho		8.7	8.5	8.6	8.1	8.7	9.4	8.9	9.5	9.6
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Idaho**	White non-Hispanic	14,521	14,792	15,065	15,044	14,972	15,375	15,614	15,387	16,091
		Black non-Hispanic	42	52	55	44	59	71	72	63	80
		Hispanic	1,434	1,535	1,758	1,850	1,978	2,040	2,180	2,365	2,428
		Other	436	442	484	502	517	549	759	767	792
		Total	**16,433**	**16,821**	**17,362**	**17,440**	**17,526**	**18,035**	**18,625**	**18,582**	**19,391**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Illinois

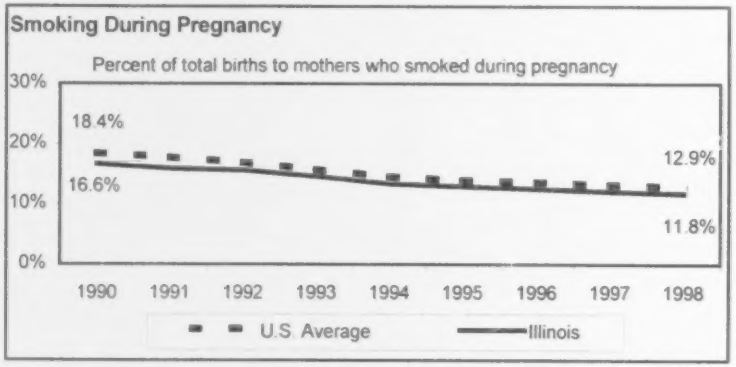
The yearly number of births in Illinois declined from 195,790 in 1990 to 182,588 in 1998. At the same time, Hispanics accounted for a growing share of Illinois births. While one-eighth of all births were to Hispanics in 1990, nearly one-fifth were to Hispanics in 1998.*

Over the 1990-1998 period, Illinois experienced a marked decline in the proportion of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (see figure) and a reduction in the percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers. In 1998, Illinois was close to the U.S. average on most measures of a healthy start to life.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The share of Illinois births to teenagers was close to the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 12 percent of Illinois births were to teens, compared with 13 percent for the nation as a whole.
- **Repeat teen births.** Illinois saw a decline in the proportion of teen births to young women who already had a child over the 1990-1998 period, from a high of 28 percent in 1992 to 23 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the downward trend in the nation as a whole, where 22 percent of teen births were repeat births in 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a small overall increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women in Illinois, from 32 percent in 1990 to 34 percent in 1998. The U.S. as a whole experienced a similar upward trend during the 1990s.
- **Low maternal education.** The percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education remained relatively stable during the 1990s. In 1998, women with less than 12 years of education accounted for 22 percent of Illinois births, similar to the U.S. average.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Both Illinois and the nation overall experienced a decline in the share of births to women receiving late or no prenatal care from 1990 to 1998. Women who received late or no prenatal care accounted for 4 percent of Illinois births in 1998, compared with 5 percent in 1990.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Over the 1990-1998 period, there was a marked decline in smoking during pregnancy in Illinois that paralleled the downward trend in the U.S. average. The proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy fell from 17 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, maternal smoking remained slightly less common in Illinois than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Babies born at a low birthweight accounted for 8 percent of Illinois births during the 1990-1998 period. Throughout most of this time, low-birthweight births made up a slightly larger share of births in Illinois than in the U.S. overall.
- **Preterm births.** Between 11 percent and 12 percent of Illinois babies were preterm during the 1990s. In 1998, the percentage of preterm births in Illinois was just above the national average.

In summary, during the 1990-1998 period, Illinois experienced four significant improvements in measures of a healthy start to life. The percentage of teen births that were repeat births declined, as did the percentages of births to teens, births to women who received late or no prenatal care, and births to women who smoked during pregnancy. However, there were small increases in the proportion of births to unmarried women and in the shares of both preterm and low-birthweight births. For most measures of a healthy start to life, Illinois was close to the U.S. average in 1998.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Illinois		13.1	13.0	12.9	12.8	13.0	12.9	12.7	12.5	12.4
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Illinois		26.8	27.1	27.9	26.6	25.3	24.5	23.9	23.6	23.4
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Illinois		31.7	32.6	33.4	34.1	34.3	33.8	33.7	33.4	34.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Illinois		22.0	22.2	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.9	22.4	22.0	22.0
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Illinois		5.3	5.3	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.9
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Illinois		16.6	15.9	15.6	14.6	13.3	12.9	12.5	12.1	11.8
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Illinois		7.6	7.8	7.7	8.1	7.9	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.0
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Illinois		11.4	11.7	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.6	12.1	12.1
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Illinois**	White non-Hispanic	122,854	119,739	115,760	113,842	112,066	110,180	107,706	105,487	105,367
		Black non-Hispanic	41,808	41,996	42,346	42,573	40,798	37,308	36,014	35,256	35,481
		Hispanic	24,245	25,727	27,333	28,610	30,350	32,166	32,849	33,171	34,780
		Other	6,883	6,769	5,957	5,763	6,043	6,158	6,611	6,889	6,960
		Total	**195,790**	**194,231**	**191,396**	**190,788**	**189,257**	**185,812**	**183,180**	**180,803**	**182,588**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Indiana

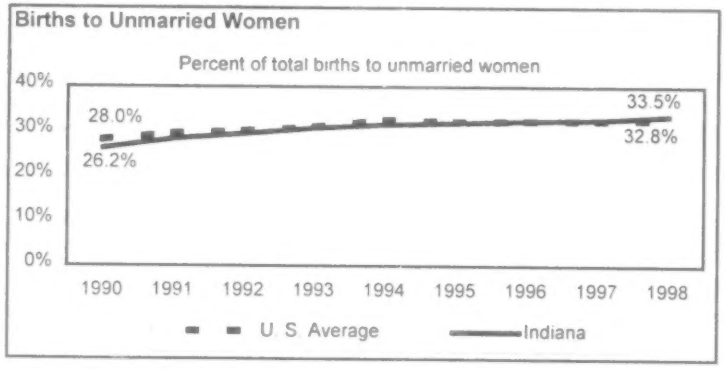
The yearly number of births in Indiana decreased slightly from 86,214 in 1990 to 85,122 in 1998. The number of births to whites decreased, while the number of births to Hispanics rose steadily.* The proportion of Hispanic births doubled during this period, from 2 percent in 1990 to 4 percent in 1998.

Indiana experienced significant changes in seven measures of a healthy start to life during the 1990-1998 period. The most striking change was a substantial increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women (see figure). Indiana was close to the U.S. average on all seven available indicators in 1998.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births were slightly more common in Indiana than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. During the 1990s, between 14 percent and 15 percent of births in Indiana were to teenagers, compared with the steady national average of 13 percent. The percentage of total births to teens was slightly lower in 1998 than in 1990.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Indiana teen births to young women who already had a child remained stable from 1990 though 1993 at 23 percent and ranged between 19 percent and 21 percent thereafter. In 1998, Indiana was in line with the U.S. average.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a dramatic increase in the proportion of Indiana births to unmarried women during the 1990s, from 26 percent in 1990 to 34 percent in 1998. This sharp rise outpaced the upward trend for the nation as a whole, bringing Indiana slightly above the U.S. average on this indicator by 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to mothers with less than 12 years of education made up a slightly smaller share of births in Indiana than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, births to women with less than 12 years of education accounted for 21 percent of births in Indiana, compared with 22 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Indiana births to women who received late or no prenatal care declined between 1990 and 1998. In 1998, 4 percent of births in Indiana and in the nation as a whole were to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Data on smoking during pregnancy were not available for Indiana births.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The percentage of low-birthweight births in Indiana increased from 7 percent in 1990 to 8 percent in 1998, mirroring the slight upward trend for the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births became a larger proportion of Indiana births during the 1990s, rising from 10 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1998. In 1998, Indiana was on par with the national average for this indicator.

In summary, Indiana was similar to the U.S. as a whole on the majority of indicators of a healthy start to life in 1998. However, the proportions of births to unmarried women and to teenagers were just above the respective national averages in 1998. The most dramatic change in Indiana over the 1990-1998 period was a marked increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women. Indiana also witnessed smaller increases in the proportions of both preterm and low-birthweight births, as well as slight declines in the shares of births to teens and teen births that were repeat births.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Indiana		14.5	14.4	14.1	14.1	14.5	14.7	14.5	14.1	13.8
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Indiana		22.5	22.8	23.4	22.9	20.2	19.1	21.4	20.4	21.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Indiana		26.2	28.3	29.5	30.8	31.5	31.9	32.3	32.6	33.5
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Indiana		21.2	21.3	20.9	20.5	20.1	20.2	20.3	20.4	20.5
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Indiana		5.6	5.7	4.9	4.8	3.7	3.6	3.8	3.9	4.0
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Indiana**		N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Indiana		6.6	6.7	6.7	7.0	6.8	7.5	7.6	7.7	7.9
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Indiana		9.9	10.1	10.2	10.7	10.5	10.7	10.7	11.0	11.5
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Indiana***	White non-Hispanic	73,933	73,528	71,956	71,507	70,172	70,525	70,539	69,840	70,642
		Black non-Hispanic	9,386	9,453	9,392	9,341	8,941	8,674	8,759	8,749	9,222
		Hispanic	1,856	1,841	1,941	2,131	2,324	2,546	2,950	3,409	3,770
		Other	1,039	885	851	970	1,158	1,090	1,265	1,438	1,488
		Total	**86,214**	**85,707**	**84,140**	**83,949**	**82,595**	**82,835**	**83,513**	**83,436**	**85,122**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**N.A. = Not Available. See Appendix 2 for more details.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Iowa

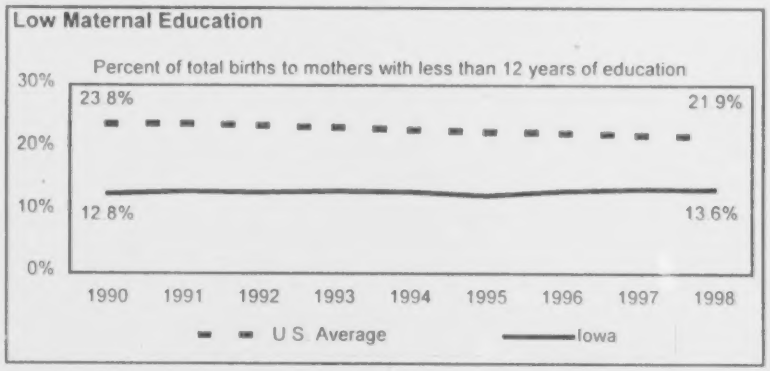
The yearly number of births in Iowa decreased from 39,409 in 1990 to 37,282 in 1998. At the same time, the relatively small number of births to Hispanics nearly tripled, from 623 (2 percent of all births) in 1990 to 1,739 (5 percent of all births) in 1998.* In addition, throughout this period, births to blacks accounted for around 3 percent of all births, while births to whites fell from 94 percent in 1990 to 89 percent in 1998.

During this nine-year span, Iowa saw significant changes in five measures of a healthy start to life. These changes, including an increase in the share of births to unmarried women and a decline in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, tended to mirror changes in the national average. When compared with the 1998 U.S. average, Iowa's children got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators, including the percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births made up a smaller share of births in Iowa than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 11 percent of Iowa births were to teens, compared with a U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers dropped from 19 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 1995, and then rose to 18 percent by 1997 and 1998. During this time, the share of Iowa teen births that were repeat births was consistently below the national average.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Iowa saw an increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women, from 21 percent in 1990 to 27 percent in 1998. There was a similar upward trend in the U.S. average. Throughout the 1990s, unmarried women continued to account for a smaller share of births in Iowa than in the nation as a whole.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education made up a strikingly smaller proportion of births in Iowa than in the U.S. overall during the 1990s. In 1998, 14 percent of Iowa births were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with 22 percent in the U.S overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Iowa births to women who received late or no prenatal care remained stable and well below the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, births to women who received late or no prenatal care made up 2 percent of births in Iowa, compared with 4 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Although Iowa saw a decline in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 23 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 1998, the U.S. as a whole experienced a bigger decline. Iowa remained above the national average throughout the nine-year span.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Despite a slight increase in the proportion of Iowa births that were low-birthweight from 5 percent in 1990 to 6 percent in 1998, low-birthweight births remained somewhat less common in Iowa than in the U.S. as a whole throughout this period.
- **Preterm births.** The percentage of Iowa births that were preterm increased from 9 percent in the early 1990s to 11 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, however, preterm births were somewhat less prevalent in Iowa than in the nation as a whole.

In summary, Iowa saw increases during the 1990s in the share of births to unmarried women and in the percentages of preterm and low-birthweight births. The percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy declined, but remained above the U.S. average in 1998. However, throughout the 1990s, when compared with the U.S. average, the children of Iowa got off to a healthier start to life on all but one measure.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Iowa		10.2	10.5	10.2	10.7	10.9	11.0	11.0	10.7	10.6
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Iowa		19.3	20.6	20.0	18.3	17.0	15.5	17.4	18.0	17.9
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Iowa		21.0	22.2	23.5	24.6	24.8	25.2	26.3	26.2	27.2
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Iowa		12.8	13.2	13.0	13.3	13.1	12.5	13.2	13.6	13.6
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Iowa		2.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.4
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Iowa		22.6	21.6	20.5	19.2	18.6	18.6	18.9	18.3	18.9
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Iowa		5.4	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.4	6.4	6.4
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Iowa		8.7	8.7	9.2	9.4	9.7	9.6	10.0	10.4	10.7
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Iowa**	White non-Hispanic	37,080	36,371	35,724	35,004	34,177	33,463	33,311	32,685	33,188
		Black non-Hispanic	1,038	1,148	1,167	1,084	1,047	963	981	1,049	1,034
		Hispanic	623	732	853	967	1,060	1,279	1,481	1,603	1,739
		Other	668	738	725	771	795	1,105	1,366	1,322	1,321
		Total	**39,409**	**38,989**	**38,469**	**37,826**	**37,079**	**36,810**	**37,139**	**36,659**	**37,282**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

** The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Kansas

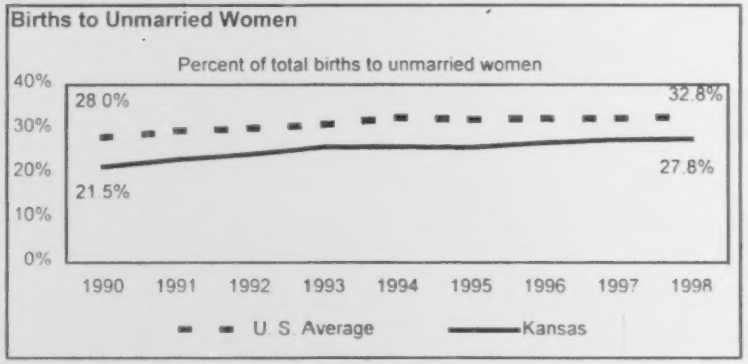
The yearly number of births in Kansas was about the same in 1990 and 1998. In 1990 there were 39,020 births, while, in 1998, there were 38,422. Births to Hispanics doubled during this time from 5 percent of births to 10 percent.*

During this nine-year span, Kansas saw a decrease in the share of teen births to young women who were already mothers and an increase in the share of births to unmarried women (see figure). The percentage of births to unmarried Kansas women and to Kansas women with less than 12 years of education were substantially below the national average.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teenagers accounted for a similar share of Kansas births in 1990 and 1998, despite a slight rise and fall in the percentage of teen births during this time. In 1998, Kansas matched the U.S. average of 13 percent for this indicator.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers fell from 25 percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 1994, and remained relatively stable thereafter. In 1998, the share of Kansas teen births that were repeat births matched the national average.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Kansas saw a sizable increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women, from 22 percent in 1990 to 28 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the upward trend for the U.S. as a whole. However, the percentage of Kansas births to unmarried women remained below the national average throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low maternal education.** The percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education ranged between 17 percent and 18 percent of Kansas births during the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, Kansas was below the national average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care decreased from 4 percent in 1990 to 3 percent by 1995, and then remained stable through 1998. Kansas was below the U.S. average for this indicator throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Kansas experienced a slight drop in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy during the 1990s, from a high of 15 percent in 1991 to 13 percent in 1993-1998. Because there was a stronger downward trend for the U.S. as a whole, Kansas moved from below the national average for this indicator in 1990 to matching it by 1998.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Despite a slight increase in the percentage of Kansas babies born at a low birthweight from 6 percent in 1990 to 7 percent in 1996 through 1998, Kansas remained just below the U.S. average on this measure throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Preterm births.** There was an overall increase in the share of Kansas births that were preterm, from 9 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1998. Since the nation as a whole experienced a similar increase, preterm births remained slightly less prevalent in Kansas than nationally throughout the nine-year period.

In summary, during the 1990-1998 period, Kansas experienced a marked decrease in the percentage of teen births that were repeat births and a sizable increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women. Although Kansas did not stray far from the national average for most indicators of a healthy beginning during the 1990s, the percentages of births to unmarried women and to women with less than 12 years of education were substantially below the U.S. average throughout this time.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Kansas		12.3	12.2	12.4	12.9	12.9	13.1	13.1	12.9	12.6
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Kansas		24.7	23.6	23.7	22.0	21.1	20.6	20.4	21.0	21.2
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Kansas		21.5	23.1	24.3	25.9	26.0	25.9	26.9	27.6	27.8
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Kansas		17.0	17.5	17.8	17.5	16.9	17.4	18.1	18.1	18.1
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Kansas		3.9	3.7	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.8
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Kansas		14.3	14.7	13.8	13.2	12.9	12.6	12.9	13.4	13.1
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Kansas		6.2	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.9	6.9	7.0
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Kansas		9.5	9.7	9.6	10.1	9.8	9.9	10.2	10.4	10.8
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Kansas**	White non-Hispanic	32,629	31,607	31,283	30,262	30,194	30,010	29,288	29,430	30,013
		Black non-Hispanic	3,318	3,142	3,287	3,204	3,102	2,857	2,740	2,766	2,759
		Hispanic	1,954	2,088	2,311	2,417	2,694	2,828	3,225	3,553	3,968
		Other	1,119	1,002	1,146	1,523	1,389	1,506	1,398	1,540	1,682
		Total	**39,020**	**37,839**	**38,027**	**37,406**	**37,379**	**37,201**	**36,651**	**37,289**	**38,422**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Kentucky

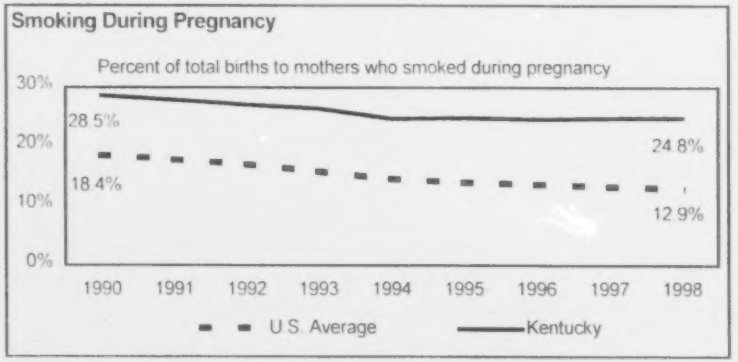
The yearly numbers of births in Kentucky were nearly the same in 1990 and 1998. In 1990 there were 54,362 births; in 1998, there were 54,329 births. Throughout this time, nearly 90 percent of total births were to whites and 9 percent were to blacks.*

During the 1990-1998 period, Kentucky saw improvements in five of eight measures of a healthy start to life, including a substantial drop in the share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care. At the same time, however, there was a sizable increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women, and the share of Kentucky births to women who smoked during pregnancy remained well above the U.S. average (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The percentage of Kentucky births to teens ranged between 17 and 18 percent during the 1990-1996 period, and then fell to 15 percent in 1998. Despite this decrease, teenagers accounted for a notably larger share of births in Kentucky than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the nine-year period.
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of Kentucky teen births to young women who were already mothers fell from a high of 23 percent in 1991 to a low of 19 percent in 1995, and then rose to 21 percent in 1997 and 1998. In 1998, Kentucky was in line with the U.S. average.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Births to unmarried women became a considerably larger share of Kentucky births, rising from 24 percent in 1990 to 30 percent in 1996 through 1998. This change mirrored the upward trend in the national average for this measure.
- **Low maternal education.** There was a drop in the percentage of Kentucky births to women with less than 12 years of education, from 26 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1998. This change closed the gap between Kentucky and the national average.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Kentucky not only experienced a marked decline in the share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care, but also remained below the U.S. average for this measure throughout the 1990s. Births to women who received late or no prenatal care accounted for 2 percent of Kentucky births in 1998, compared with 4 percent of births in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Despite a drop in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy from 29 percent in 1990 to 25 percent in 1994 through 1998, smoking during pregnancy remained strikingly more common in Kentucky than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s. In 1998, births to women who smoked during pregnancy accounted for 25 percent of births in Kentucky, compared with 13 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The percentage of Kentucky babies born at a low birthweight remained close to the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 8 percent of births were low-birthweight both in Kentucky and in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** There was an increase in the share of Kentucky births that were preterm, from 10 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1998. Since the U.S. as a whole experienced a smaller upward trend, Kentucky was above the U.S. average by 1998.

In summary, Kentucky experienced improvements in five of eight measures of a healthy start to life, including a notable decrease in the percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care. However, the state also saw marked increases in the share of births to unmarried women and the percentage of births that were preterm. Kentucky remained below the national average for the percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care during the 1990s, but was well above the U.S. average for the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Kentucky		17.5	17.4	16.5	16.8	17.2	17.2	17.0	16.3	15.4
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Kentucky		22.4	23.3	22.7	22.0	19.6	19.4	19.9	21.1	20.9
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Kentucky		23.6	25.4	26.3	27.2	27.6	28.5	29.8	29.5	30.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Kentucky		26.3	26.2	25.2	24.3	23.7	23.2	22.9	22.6	22.0
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Kentucky		4.8	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.0	2.9	2.9 *	2.6	2.5
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Kentucky		28.5	27.9	27.0	26.4	24.6	24.7	24.5	24.7	24.8
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Kentucky		7.1	7.2	6.8	7.1	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.8	8.1
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Kentucky		10.5	11.1	10.6	11.3	11.6	11.6	11.7	11.8	12.5
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Kentucky**	White non-Hispanic	48,574	48,447	47,840	47,266	47,179	46,634	46,727	47,230	48,095
		Black non-Hispanic	5,065	5,255	5,167	4,822	4,876	4,759	4,830	4,630	4,845
		Hispanic	274	231	372	401	466	493	555	727	751
		Other	449	393	461	511	462	491	594	616	638
		Total	**54,362**	**54,326**	**53,840**	**53,000**	**52,983**	**52,377**	**52,706**	**53,203**	**54,329**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Louisiana

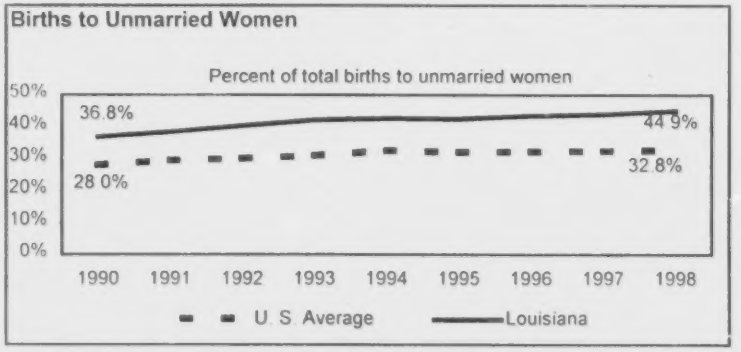
The yearly number of births in Louisiana declined from 72,192 in 1990 to 66,888 in 1998. This decrease was reflected in reductions in births to both whites and blacks, who together accounted for most of Louisiana births throughout the nine-year period. In 1998, 55 percent of Louisiana births were to whites and 41 percent were to blacks.*

In 1998, Louisiana lagged behind the nation as a whole on six of the eight measures of a healthy start to life. Nevertheless, the state saw improvements during the 1990-1998 period in four measures, including a substantial drop in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy. At the same time, there was also a substantial rise in the proportion of births to unmarried women (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The percentage of births to teens in Louisiana remained between 17 and 19 percent during the 1990-1998 period, consistently above the national average. In 1998, 18 percent of Louisiana births were to teen mothers, compared with the U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of Louisiana teen births to young women who were already mothers fell from a high of 27 percent in 1992 to 23 percent in 1998. Despite this substantial decline, the percentage of Louisiana teen births that were repeat births remained slightly above the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** During the 1990s, there was a sizable increase in the percentage of Louisiana births to unmarried women, from 37 percent in 1990 to 45 percent in 1998. This rise surpassed the upward trend for the nation as a whole, and Louisiana remained well above the U.S. average on this measure throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education became a smaller share of Louisiana births over the 1990-1998 period, dropping from 27 percent in 1990 through 1993 to 25 percent in 1998. Louisiana was consistently above the national average on this measure throughout this time.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The proportion of births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care decreased during the 1990s, from 6 percent in the early 1990s to 4 percent in 1994 through 1998. This overall change from 1990 to 1998 mirrored the downward trend for the U.S. as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Louisiana experienced a striking drop in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy over the 1990s, from 15 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1998. Smoking during pregnancy remained less common in Louisiana than in the nation as a whole throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Over the 1990-1998 period, the proportion of Louisiana babies born at a low birthweight increased slightly and was consistently above the U.S. average. In 1998, 10 percent of births in Louisiana were low-birthweight, compared with 8 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births made up a larger share of births in Louisiana than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s. In 1998, 15 percent of births in Louisiana were preterm, compared with the national average of 12 percent.

In summary, when compared with the 1998 U.S. average, Louisiana's children got off to a less healthy start to life on six indicators. However, the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy remained below the national average, while continuing to fall throughout the 1990-1998 period. Louisiana also saw reductions in the proportion of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care and in the share of teen births that were repeat births. At the same time, however, there was a notable rise in the percentage of births to unmarried women.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Louisiana		17.6	17.6	18.1	18.7	19.2	19.1	18.9	18.6	18.4
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Louisiana.		25.9	26.1	26.7	25.4	25.2	22.9	23.0	23.2	22.7
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Louisiana		36.8	38.4	40.2	42.0	42.6	42.4	43.4	43.9	44.9
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Louisiana		26.6	27.5	27.4	27.4	26.5	25.3	25.1	24.5	24.5
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Louisiana		5.9	6.3	5.8	4.8	4.2	4.0	4.2	4.1	3.9
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Louisiana		15.1	13.8	12.4	11.6	11.5	11.1	10.7	10.3	10.3
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Louisiana		9.2	9.4	9.4	9.3	9.6	9.7	9.9	10.2	10.1
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Louisiana		13.9	14.2	14.3	14.2	14.2	14.0	13.7	14.5	14.7
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Louisiana**	White non-Hispanic	40,547	39,788	38,900	37,658	36,808	36,448	36,184	36,445	36,756
		Black non-Hispanic	29,688	30,347	29,751	29,633	28,432	26,784	26,438	27,097	27,385
		Hispanic	941	927	977	1,001	1,413	1,158	1,267	1,263	1,327
		Other	1,016	1,131	1,079	1,110	1,164	1,251	1,315	1,220	1,420
		Total	**72,192**	**72,193**	**70,707**	**69,402**	**67,817**	**65,641**	**65,204**	**66,025**	**66,888**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Maine

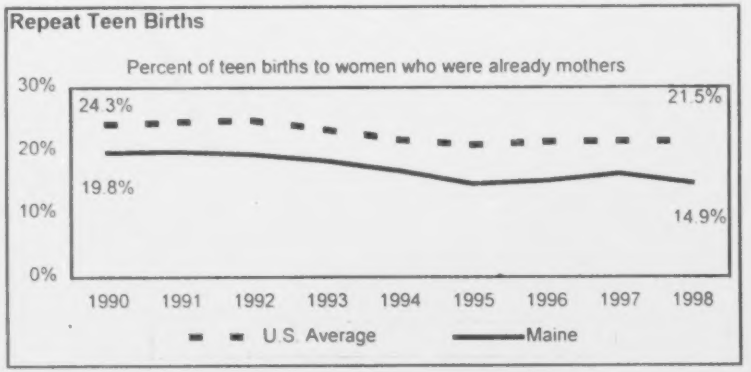
The yearly number of births in Maine fell by about 20 percent from 17,359 in 1990 to 13,733 in 1998. Whites accounted for well over 90 percent of Maine births throughout this time.*

When compared with the national average, Maine's children got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators in 1998. Moreover, Maine saw a striking decrease during the 1990s in the already small percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers (see figure). However, the proportion of births to unmarried women increased markedly during this time.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, births to teens remained less common in Maine than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, teenagers accounted for 10 percent of births in Maine, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of Maine teen births to young women who were already mothers underwent a sizable decrease, from 20 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 15 percent in 1995, and then remained relatively stable thereafter. Since this drop outpaced the downward trend in the U.S. as a whole, Maine remained below the national average for this measure throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Maine saw a dramatic increase in the share of births to unmarried mothers, from 23 percent in 1990 to 31 percent in 1998. Although this change outpaced the increase in the U.S. average, births to unmarried women continued to account for a smaller proportion of births in Maine than in the U.S. as a whole in 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** Already well below the national average, the percentage of Maine births to women with less than 12 years of education fell from 14 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1998.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, births to women who received late or no prenatal care accounted for a smaller share of births in Maine than in the nation overall. In 1998, 2 percent of births in Maine were to women who received late or no prenatal care, compared with 4 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The percentage of Maine births to women who smoked during pregnancy fell from 22 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 18 percent in 1995, and then rose to 20 percent in 1998. Smoking during pregnancy remained more common in Maine than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Despite a slight increase in the share of Maine births that were low-birthweight, Maine remained below the U.S. average for this measure throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, low-birthweight babies made up 6 percent of births in Maine, compared with 8 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** The percentage of births that were preterm remained smaller in Maine than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s. In 1998, 9 percent of Maine births were preterm, compared with the U.S. average of 12 percent.

In summary, when compared with the national average in 1998, the children of Maine got off to a healthier start to life on all indicators except maternal smoking. Further, Maine saw a number of improvements during the 1990-1998 period, including decreases in the already small percentages of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education and teen births that were repeat births. At the same time, however, there was a marked increase in the share of Maine births to unmarried women as well as an increase in the percentage of preterm births.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Maine		10.8	10.9	10.2	10.1	10.2	10.3	9.7	10.1	9.8
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Maine		19.8	19.9	19.5	18.4	16.8	14.7	15.2	16.4	14.9
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Maine		22.6	25.0	25.3	27.0	28.2	27.8	28.7	29.7	30.6
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Maine		14.5	14.2	13.4	13.0	11.7	11.8	11.7	11.7	10.9
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Maine		2.5	3.3	1.8	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Maine		21.5	21.7	20.7	20.6	18.8	18.2	19.3	19.2	19.6
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Maine		5.1	5.4	5.0	5.4	5.7	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Maine		7.6	7.3	7.5	8.1	8.8	9.1	8.8	9.2	9.1
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Maine**	White non-Hispanic	16,081	15,602	15,033	14,340	13,819	13,248	12,951	12,656	12,674
		Black non-Hispanic	83	71	75	54	69	66	80	68	78
		Hispanic	127	107	101	107	107	112	115	121	131
		Other	1,068	973	848	564	446	470	628	824	850
		Total	**17,359**	**16,753**	**16,057**	**15,065**	**14,441**	**13,896**	**13,774**	**13,669**	**13,733**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Maryland

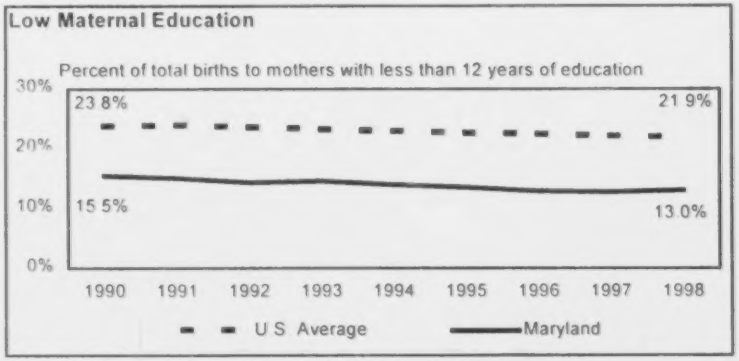
The yearly number of births in Maryland declined from 80,245 in 1990 to 71,972 in 1998. In 1998, births to whites accounted for 57 percent of total births, while births to blacks accounted for nearly a third. The Hispanic share was 5 percent of total births.*

When compared with the national average in 1998, Maryland's children got off to a healthier start to life on five of the eight indicators, including the percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education (see figure). Moreover, there were marked declines during the 1990-1998 period in the share of teen births to young women who were already mothers and in the share of all births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy. At the same time, the proportion of Maryland births to unmarried women increased.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The percentage of Maryland births to teens remained relatively stable and below the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, teenagers accounted for 10 percent of births in Maryland, compared with 13 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of Maryland teen births to young women who were already mothers dropped from 26 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 19 percent by 1995 and then remained relatively stable thereafter. This change brought Maryland from above the national average for this measure in 1990 to below it by 1995.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Maryland saw an overall increase in the share of births to unmarried women, from 30 percent in 1990 to 34 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the rise in the U.S. average.
- **Low maternal education.** Already well below the national average in 1990, the percentage of Maryland births to women with less than 12 years of education fell from 16 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1996 through 1998.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, births to women who received late or no prenatal care remained less common in Maryland than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, births to women who received late or no prenatal care accounted for 3 percent of births in Maryland, compared with 4 percent in the nation overall.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Maryland experienced a marked drop in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 16 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1998. Moreover, smoking during pregnancy remained less common in Maryland than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** There was a slight increase in the share of Maryland babies born at a low birthweight, from 8 percent in 1990 to 9 percent by 1997-1998. The percentage of Maryland births that were low-birthweight remained just above the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Preterm births.** The share of Maryland births that were preterm rose from 11 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1998. During this time, preterm births were slightly more common in Maryland than in the U.S. as a whole.

In summary, the children of Maryland got off to a healthier start to life on five of eight indicators, when compared with the national average in 1998. Furthermore, during the 1990-1998 period, the state saw notable declines in the share of teen births that were repeat births and the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy. There were smaller declines in the percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education, and births to women who received late or no prenatal care. However, there were increases in the percentages of preterm and low-birthweight births and in the share of births to unmarried women.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Maryland		10.5	10.4	9.8	10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.2
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Maryland		25.7	25.9	25.3	23.2	21.9	18.9	19.3	20.2	20.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Maryland		29.6	30.7	30.5	32.5	33.7	33.3	33.5	33.5	34.4
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Maryland		15.5	15.1	14.4	14.6	14.0	13.6	12.9	12.8	13.0
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Maryland		3.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.6	3.0
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Maryland		15.8	15.1	13.7	12.8	11.7	11.8	11.3	10.2	9.8
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Maryland		7.8	8.1	8.3	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.7
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Maryland		11.2	11.7	11.5	12.1	12.2	12.7	12.3	12.7	12.8
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Maryland**	White non-Hispanic	49,463	47,821	46,492	44,519	44,019	43,477	42,214	40,890	40,893
		Black non-Hispanic	23,716	23,883	24,549	23,967	23,641	22,348	22,497	22,490	23,741
		Hispanic	2,523	2,477	2,980	2,996	3,090	3,155	3,234	3,274	3,580
		Other	4,543	5,003	3,794	3,506	3,221	3,416	3,588	3,561	3,758
		Total	**80,245**	**79,184**	**77,815**	**74,988**	**73,971**	**72,396**	**71,533**	**70,215**	**71,972**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Massachusetts

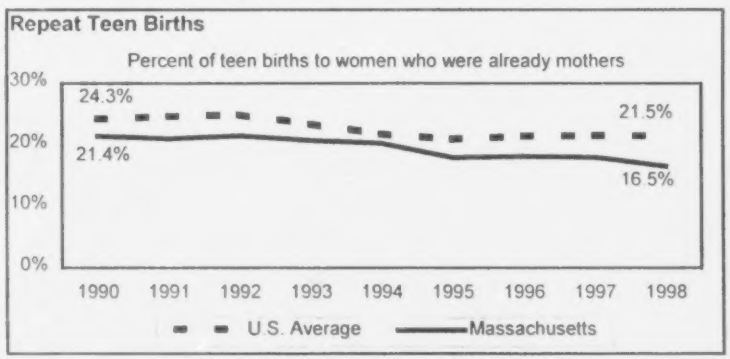
There was a marked decrease in the yearly number of births in Massachusetts, from 92,654 in 1990 to 81,411 in 1998. Births to whites accounted for the vast majority of Massachusetts births, including three of every four births in 1998.* The decline in total births was due to reductions in births to whites and blacks. Births to Hispanics rose slightly and accounted for 11 percent of the total in 1998.

When compared with the U.S. average, the children of Massachusetts got off to a healthier start to life on all eight indicators in 1998. Furthermore, Massachusetts experienced a notable drop in the proportion of births to women with less than 12 years of education, as well as a substantial reduction in the percentage of teen births that were to young women who already had a child (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births were notably less common in Massachusetts than in the nation as a whole during the 1990s. Throughout this period, births to teens accounted for between 7 and 8 percent of Massachusetts births, compared with the national average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** During the 1990s, Massachusetts experienced a sizable reduction in the percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers, from 21 percent in 1990 to less than 17 percent in 1998. This change outpaced the downward trend of the U.S. overall, leaving Massachusetts well below the national average in 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The share of births to unmarried women in Massachusetts increased from 25 percent in 1990 to 27 percent in 1994, and then remained steady at 26 percent through 1998. The U.S. as a whole saw a sharper overall rise in this indicator from 1990 to 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** There was a reduction in the proportion of Massachusetts births to women with less than 12 years of education, from 16 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 13 percent in 1995 through 1998. Massachusetts was markedly below the U.S. average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care made up a substantially smaller share of births in Massachusetts than in the nation as a whole throughout the 1990s. In 1998, births to women receiving late or no prenatal care accounted for 2 percent of births in Massachusetts, compared with 4 percent in the U.S. overall.**
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The abrupt change in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy from 1992 to 1993 probably reflects the effects of state anti-smoking legislation passed in 1992. There was a decline in maternal smoking thereafter, from more than 16 percent in 1993 to less than 12 percent in 1998.
- **Low-birthweight births.** From 1990 to 1998, there was a slight rise in the proportion of Massachusetts births that were low-birthweight, from 6 percent in 1990 through 1996 to 7 percent thereafter. Despite this increase, low-birthweight births remained less prevalent in Massachusetts than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births became a larger share of Massachusetts births over the 1990-1998 period, rising from 8 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1998. Nevertheless, preterm births consistently accounted for a smaller proportion of births in Massachusetts than in the nation as a whole.

In summary, when compared with the national average, the children of Massachusetts got off to a healthier start to life on all eight measures. In addition, the state witnessed marked declines from 1990 to 1998 in the share of teen births that were repeat births and in the proportion of births to women with less than 12 years of education.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** A more accurate method for calculating this statistic was introduced in 1996. This introduces a temporary discontinuity in the trends in prenatal care receipt. See Appendix 2 for more details.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Massachusetts		8.0	8.0	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.2
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Massachusetts		21.4	21.0	21.5	20.8	20.3	18.0	18.1	18.0	16.5
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*25.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Massachusetts		24.7	25.9	25.9	26.4	26.6	25.6	25.5	25.9	26.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Massachusetts		16.1	16.0	15.3	14.6	14.2	13.1	13.2	13.4	13.4
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Massachusetts**		2.8	2.5	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9	3.0	2.7	2.4
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Massachusetts		25.3	24.5	23.3	16.5	15.0	13.6	13.2	12.4	11.7
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Massachusetts		5.9	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.4	7.0	6.9
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Massachusetts		7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8	8.0	8.3	8.9	9.5	9.8
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Massachusetts***	White non-Hispanic	72,261	68,390	67,564	65,659	64,821	63,067	62,052	61,446	62,073
		Black non-Hispanic	7,585	7,233	7,141	6,860	6,667	6,272	5,886	6,208	6,322
		Hispanic	8,425	8,485	8,522	8,252	8,435	8,109	7,732	8,235	8,684
		Other	4,383	4,097	4,004	3,897	3,864	4,200	4,606	4,475	4,332
		Total	**92,654**	**88,205**	**87,231**	**84,668**	**83,787**	**81,648**	**80,276**	**80,364**	**81,411**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**See footnote ** in text and Appendix 2.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Michigan

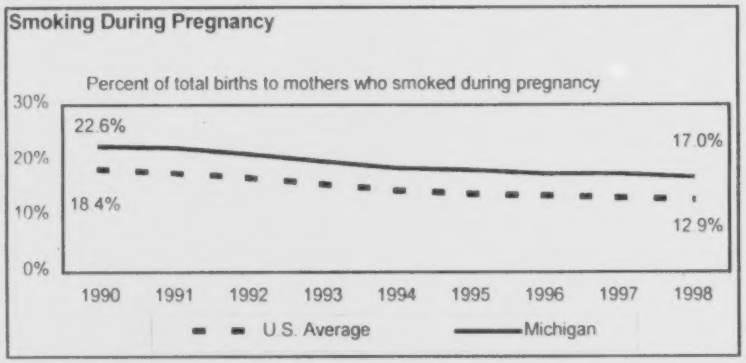
There was a substantial decline in the yearly number of births in Michigan, from 153,700 in 1990 to 133,666 in 1998. In 1998, births to whites accounted for 70 percent of total births, births to blacks accounted for 18 percent, and births to Hispanics accounted for 4 percent.*

Over the 1990-1998 period, the percentage of Michigan births to women who smoked during pregnancy declined markedly, yet remained well above the U.S. average (see figure). Michigan saw smaller improvements in a number of other measures of a healthy start to life, including a drop in the share of teen births to young women who already had a child.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births became a slightly smaller share of Michigan births during the 1990s. While teenagers accounted for 13 percent of births in 1990, they accounted for 12 percent in 1998.
- **Repeat teen births.** The share of Michigan teen births to young women who already had a child fluctuated during the 1990s but fell overall, from 25 percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 1998. The U.S. as a whole saw a similar downward trend.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The percentage of births to unmarried women is not displayed for 1990-1993 because the number of births to unmarried women in Michigan was underreported during these years.** From 1994 through 1998, the proportion of Michigan births to unmarried women ranged between 33 percent and 35 percent, remaining just above the national average throughout.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education became a smaller proportion of Michigan births during the 1990s, falling from 20 percent in 1990 through 1992 to 18 percent in 1997 and 1998. Births to women with less than 12 years of education remained less common in Michigan than in the U.S. overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Michigan births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care decreased from 4 percent in 1990 to 3 percent in 1998. Michigan remained somewhat below the national average for this indicator throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Michigan experienced a substantial decline in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, from 23 percent in 1990 to 17 percent in 1998. Yet, throughout the 1990s, smoking during pregnancy remained markedly more common in Michigan than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight births accounted for 8 percent of Michigan births throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, Michigan was close to the U.S. average for this indicator.
- **Preterm births.** The percentage of Michigan births that were preterm remained in line with the U.S. average throughout the 1990s. In 1998, preterm births accounted for 11 percent of births in Michigan and 12 percent of births in the U.S. as a whole.

In summary, between 1990 and 1998, Michigan experienced improvements in five of seven available measures of a healthy start to life, including reductions in the shares of all births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and of teen births to young women who were already mothers. However, the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy remained considerably higher than the national average throughout the nine-year period.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** See Appendix 2 for more details.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Michigan		13.5	13.2	13.0	12.6	12.6	12.5	12.2	11.7	11.6
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Michigan		24.8	25.9	26.3	24.5	22.5	20.4	21.3	21.5	21.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Michigan**		N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	35.0	34.3	33.8	33.2	33.9
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Michigan		19.9	20.0	19.8	19.6	18.5	18.3	17.8	17.5	17.5
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Michigan		4.1	4.0	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.4
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Michigan		22.6	22.3	21.2	19.9	18.6	18.3	17.6	17.6	17.0
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Michigan		7.6	7.8	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Michigan		10.7	11.2	10.8	11.2	11.2	10.9	10.8	11.3	11.5
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Michigan***	White non-Hispanic	109,182	106,234	102,987	99,426	97,474	95,715	94,990	93,875	92,972
		Black non-Hispanic	31,440	31,261	29,463	27,950	26,876	24,679	23,792	23,957	24,007
		Hispanic	4,326	4,397	4,302	4,389	4,454	4,781	5,050	5,454	5,945
		Other	8,752	8,306	7,337	8,090	9,225	9,467	9,555	10,428	10,742
		Total	**153,700**	**150,198**	**144,089**	**139,855**	**138,028**	**134,642**	**133,387**	**133,714**	**133,666**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**N.R. Not Reliable. See text and Appendix 2 for more details.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Minnesota

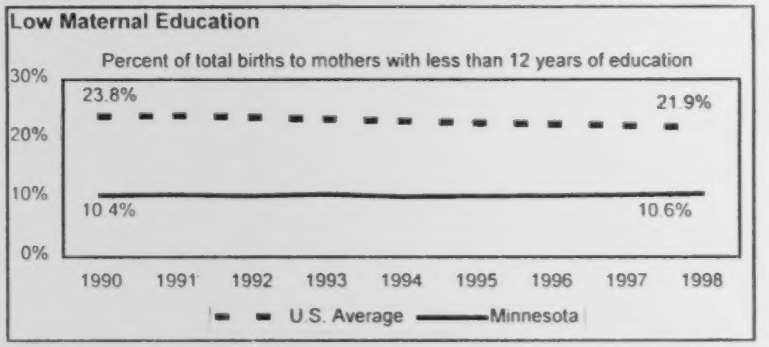
During the 1990s, the yearly number of births in Minnesota decreased, from 68,013 in 1990 to 65,202 in 1998. This decline was due to a substantial reduction in births to whites, as births to both blacks and Hispanics increased over this time. Births to whites fell from 86 percent of births in 1990 to 78 percent in 1998.*

Minnesota experienced two striking changes in measures of a healthy start to life during the 1990s: a drop in the proportion of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and a rise in the percentage of births to unmarried women. Throughout this time, when compared with the U.S. average, Minnesota's children got off to a healthier start to life on all eight indicators, including the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births were markedly less common in Minnesota than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, teen births accounted for 9 percent of births in Minnesota, compared with 13 percent in the nation overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** During the 1990s, between 18 percent and 22 percent of Minnesota teen births were to young women who already had a child. The percentage of Minnesota teen births that were repeat births remained below the U.S. average throughout this time.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a marked rise in the share of Minnesota births to unmarried women, from 21 percent in 1990 to almost 26 percent in 1998. A similar upward trend for the U.S. overall left Minnesota below the national average throughout this period.
- **Low maternal education.** The proportion of Minnesota births to mothers with less than 12 years of education remained relatively stable and dramatically below the U.S. average throughout the 1990s. In 1998, 11 percent of births in Minnesota were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with the national average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Over the 1990-1998 period, there was a slight decrease in the percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care, from 4 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 3 percent thereafter. Although the nation as a whole experienced a stronger downward trend from 1990 to 1998, Minnesota remained below the U.S. average throughout this time.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy became a notably smaller share of Minnesota births over the 1990s, falling from 16 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1998. Despite a more pronounced drop in the U.S. average, smoking during pregnancy remained less common in Minnesota than in the nation as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Throughout the 1990s, low-birthweight births made up a smaller share of births in Minnesota than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 6 percent of births were low-birthweight in Minnesota, compared with the national average of 8 percent.
- **Preterm births.** From 1990 to 1998, the percentage of preterm births in Minnesota rose slightly, from 8 percent in 1990 to 9 percent throughout the remainder of the period. Preterm births were less common in Minnesota than in the U.S. as a whole throughout this time.

In summary, throughout the 1990-1998 period, the children of Minnesota got off to a healthier start to life on all eight measures, when compared with the national average. Furthermore, the state experienced a sizable reduction in the proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy over this time. Another noteworthy change was an increase in the share of births to unmarried women.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Minnesota		8.0	8.1	8.1	8.2	8.5	8.4	8.6	8.8	8.6
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Minnesota		19.6	21.5	20.9	20.5	19.4	17.8	18.9	18.0	18.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Minnesota		20.9	22.3	23.0	23.4	24.0	23.9	24.8	25.0	25.6
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Minnesota		10.4	10.5	10.3	10.5	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.6
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Minnesota		3.6	3.8	3.5	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.1	2.9
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Minnesota		15.8	15.4	15.2	14.4	13.8	13.4	13.1	13.0	12.4
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Minnesota		5.1	5.3	5.2	5.5	5.7	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Minnesota		8.1	8.6	8.5	8.9	8.8	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.2
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Minnesota**	White non-Hispanic	58,476	57,059	52,515	50,870	52,141	49,834	50,726	51,234	51,089
		Black non-Hispanic	2,211	2,368	2,132	2,163	2,554	2,705	3,049	3,284	3,594
		Hispanic	1,050	1,262	1,377	1,560	1,661	1,915	2,324	2,625	2,967
		Other	6,276	6,380	9,583	10,055	7,949	8,809	7,601	7,356	7,552
		Total	**68,013**	**67,069**	**65,607**	**64,648**	**64,305**	**63,263**	**63,700**	**64,499**	**65,202**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Mississippi

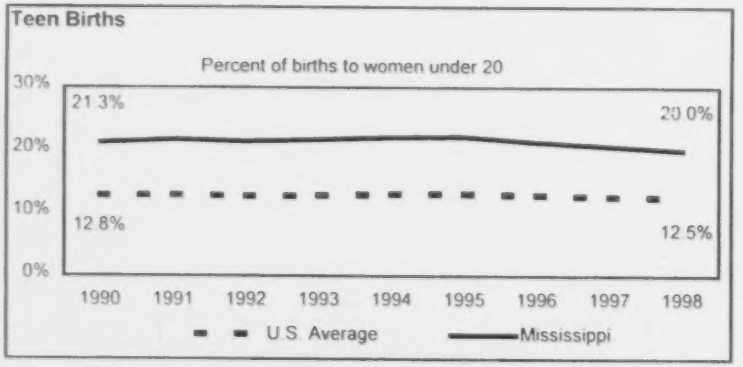
The yearly number of births in Mississippi decreased from 43,563 in 1990 to 40,987 in 1996, and then rose to 42,939 births in 1998. Throughout this time, slightly more than half of Mississippi births were to whites and slightly less than half were to blacks.*

When compared with the national average in 1998, Mississippi's children got off to a significantly less healthy start to life on six of eight indicators, including the percentage of births to teens (see figure). Moreover, there was a marked rise during the 1990-1998 period in the already large share of births to unmarried women. On the other hand, Mississippi experienced a number of improvements, including a substantial drop in the percentage of teen births to young women who already had a child.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990s, births to teens made up a substantially greater proportion of births in Mississippi than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, 20 percent of births in Mississippi were to teenagers, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** The share of Mississippi teen births to young women who were already mothers decreased from a high of 29 percent in 1992 to 24 percent by 1995, and then remained relatively stable through 1998. The share of Mississippi teen births that were repeat births remained above the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The percentage of births to unmarried women in Mississippi rose from 40 percent in 1990 to 45 percent in 1994 and remained stable thereafter. Throughout the 1990-1998 period, births to unmarried women were substantially more common in Mississippi than in the nation as a whole.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education became a smaller share of Mississippi births during the 1990s, falling from 30 percent in 1990 to 26 percent in 1997 and 1998. Mississippi remained above the U.S. average for this indicator throughout the 1990s.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The proportion of Mississippi births to women who received late or no prenatal care fell from a high of 5 percent in 1993 to 4 percent in 1998. Since the nation as a whole saw a stronger downward trend, Mississippi went from being below the U.S. average for this indicator in 1990 to even with it in 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The percentage of Mississippi births to women who smoked during pregnancy fell from 16 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1995 and remained stable thereafter. Mississippi went from below the national average in 1990 to even with it in 1998.
- **Low-birthweight.** Low-birthweight births were more prevalent in Mississippi than in the U.S. as a whole during the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 10 percent of births in Mississippi were low-birthweight, compared with 8 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births were substantially more common in Mississippi than in the nation as a whole throughout the 1990s. In 1998, preterm births accounted for 16 percent of Mississippi births, compared with a national average of 12 percent.

In summary, when compared with the U.S. average, the children of Mississippi got off to a significantly less healthy start to life on six of eight measures in 1998. Furthermore, the state experienced an increase during the 1990-1998 period in the already high percentage of births to unmarried women. However, there were also a number of improvements. The share of teen births that were repeat births declined, as did the percentages of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, and births to mothers with less than 12 years of education.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Mississippi		21.3	21.7	21.4	21.7	22.1	22.2	21.3	20.7	20.0
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Mississippi		28.4	28.5	29.1	27.2	25.0	23.6	24.6	25.3	24.4
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Mississippi		40.5	42.4	42.9	44.4	45.4	45.3	45.0	45.4	45.4
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Mississippi		29.6	29.2	28.6	28.1	27.4	27.2	26.6	26.1	26.2
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Mississippi		4.8	4.9	5.0	5.4	5.0	4.8	4.2	4.1	4.0
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Mississippi		15.8	15.4	14.9	14.3	14.3	13.0	12.8	12.6	13.0
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Mississippi		9.6	9.7	9.9	10.1	9.9	9.8	9.9	10.1	10.1
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Mississippi		15.1	15.4	15.4	15.9	15.6	15.4	15.3	15.6	16.0
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Mississippi**	White non-Hispanic	22,161	21,771	21,554	21,091	21,347	21,321	21,156	21,663	22,523
		Black non-Hispanic	20,748	20,815	20,515	20,417	19,953	19,241	18,958	18,961	19,343
		Hispanic	116	137	141	141	182	220	278	328	403
		Other	538	481	471	500	472	562	595	581	670
		Total	**43,563**	**43,204**	**42,681**	**42,149**	**41,954**	**41,344**	**40,987**	**41,533**	**42,939**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Missouri

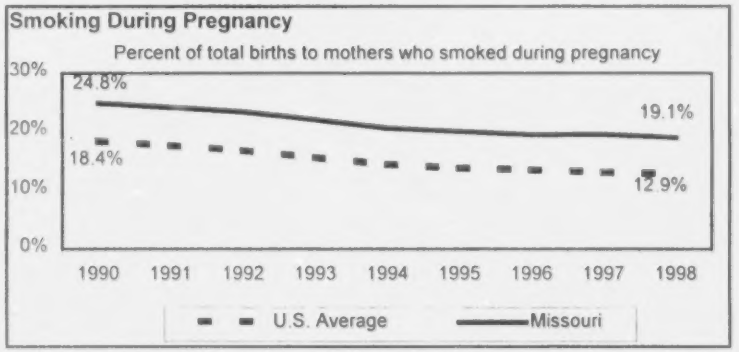
The yearly number of births in Missouri decreased from 79,260 in 1990 to 75,358 in 1998. While this decrease was evident among births to both blacks and whites, births to Hispanics increased during the 1990s. Births to Hispanics accounted for almost 3 percent of Missouri births in 1998, compared with 1 percent 1990.*

During the 1990s, Missouri experienced a number of changes in measures of a healthy start to life. The most striking changes were a sharp decrease in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (see figure) and a sizable increase in the proportion of births to unmarried mothers.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births were more common in Missouri than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. During this time, between 14 percent and 15 percent of Missouri births were to teens, compared with the steady national average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The share of teen births to young women who were already mothers increased from 24 percent in 1990 to 26 percent in 1992, and then decreased to 21 percent in 1998. Missouri was close to the national average for this measure throughout this period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Over the 1990-1998 period, there was a marked increase in the proportion of Missouri births to unmarried mothers, from 29 percent in 1990 to 34 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the upward trend for the U.S. overall, with Missouri just above the national average in both 1990 and 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education made up a slightly smaller share of births in Missouri than in the nation as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 20 percent of Missouri births were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with the U.S. average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Missouri births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care decreased from 5 percent in 1990 to 3 percent in 1994, and remained stable through 1998. Missouri remained below the national average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Both Missouri and the nation as a whole experienced a striking reduction in maternal smoking during the 1990s. However, smoking during pregnancy remained more common in Missouri than in the U.S. as a whole throughout this period. In 1998, 19 percent of Missouri births were to women who smoked during pregnancy, compared with 13 percent of births in the U.S. overall.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The proportion of Missouri births that were low-birthweight remained similar to the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, low-birthweight births accounted for 8 percent of births in both Missouri and the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** During the 1990s, preterm births accounted for between 11 percent and 12 percent of births in both Missouri and the U.S. overall.

In summary, Missouri experienced a substantial reduction in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy over the 1990-1998 period. However, this percentage remained markedly above the U.S. average throughout this time. Missouri also saw notable declines in the shares of teen births that were repeat births and births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care. During the same time, there was a marked increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women.



* Estimates for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Missouri		14.4	14.4	14.5	14.2	14.7	14.4	14.1	13.9	13.8
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Missouri		23.8	25.4	25.8	23.8	21.8	21.0	20.6	20.3	20.9
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Missouri		28.6	30.2	31.5	32.4	32.5	32.1	33.2	33.1	34.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Missouri		21.1	21.0	20.9	20.4	19.7	19.2	19.3	19.3	19.6
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Missouri		4.8	4.5	4.2	4.0	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.9
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Missouri		24.8	24.2	23.4	22.1	20.7	20.1	19.6	19.6	19.1
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Missouri		7.1	7.5	7.3	7.5	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Missouri		10.7	11.4	11.2	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.3	11.6	12.0
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Missouri**	White non-Hispanic	63,574	62,887	60,901	59,912	59,289	59,423	59,757	59,788	60,554
		Black non-Hispanic	13,538	13,646	13,282	12,974	11,813	10,990	11,089	10,999	11,367
		Hispanic	970	1,070	1,018	1,150	1,224	1,288	1,516	1,758	1,970
		Other	1,178	1,074	1,100	1,217	1,217	1,327	1,470	1,492	1,467
		Total	**79,260**	**78,677**	**76,301**	**75,253**	**73,543**	**73,028**	**73,832**	**74,037**	**75,358**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Montana

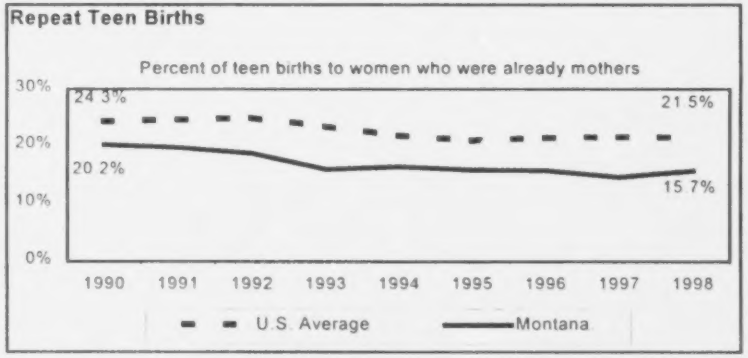
The yearly number of births in Montana declined from 11,613 in 1990 to 10,795 in 1998. Births to whites accounted for more than 80 percent of all Montana births throughout this time.* Births to American Indians (included in Other) accounted for 11 percent of Montana births in 1998.

When compared with the U.S. average, the children of Montana got off to a significantly healthier start to life on five of eight measures in 1998. Moreover, Montana saw marked drops during the 1990s in the already small percentages of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care and of teen births to young women who already had a child (see figure). However, there were sizable increases in the shares of preterm births and births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teenagers accounted for a relatively stable share of Montana births during the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, the percentage of births to teenagers in Montana was 12 percent, on par with the national average.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Montana teen births to young women who were already mothers fell from 20 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 1993, and then remained relatively stable thereafter. Montana remained below the national average for this indicator throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** During the 1990s, Montana saw a sizable overall rise in the share of births to unmarried women, mirroring the trend in the U.S. average. Unmarried women accounted for 30 percent of Montana births in 1998, compared with 24 percent in 1990.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education were markedly less common in Montana than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, these births made up 15 percent of total births in Montana, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Montana saw a drop during the 1990s in the share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care, from 5 percent in 1990 to 3 percent by 1994, and remaining relatively stable thereafter. Throughout the 1990-1998 period, Montana was below the U.S. average for this indicator.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Smoking during pregnancy remained substantially more common in Montana than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990s. In 1998, births to women who smoked during pregnancy accounted for 19 percent of births in Montana, compared with 13 percent in the nation overall.
- **Low-birthweight births.** There was a small increase in the proportion of Montana babies born at a low birthweight, from 6 percent in 1990 through 1995 to 7 percent by 1998. Throughout this time, low-birthweight births remained slightly less prevalent in Montana than in the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Montana experienced an increase in the share of births that were preterm, from 8 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1998. In 1998, Montana was on par with the national average for this measure.

In summary, when compared with the national average in 1998, Montana's children got off to a significantly healthier start to life on five of eight measures. In addition, there were sizable reductions over the 1990-1998 period in the already small shares of births to women who received late or no prenatal care and of teen births that were repeat births. On the other hand, the proportions of preterm births and births to unmarried women rose markedly during this time, and the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy remained substantially above the U.S. average throughout the nine-year span.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Montana		11.5	11.5	11.9	12.5	12.1	12.6	12.4	12.2	12.3
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Montana.		20.2	19.7	18.7	15.9	16.4	15.9	15.7	14.6	15.7
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Montana		23.7	25.2	26.4	27.3	25.5	26.5	27.9	28.7	29.9
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Montana		16.4	16.0	16.5	15.7	14.7	14.6	14.4	14.7	15.3
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Montana		5.1	4.4	4.2	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.2
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Montana		20.5	19.1	20.2	19.2	18.2	18.6	17.9	18.2	18.5
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Montana		6.2	5.6	6.0	6.0	6.2	5.8	6.4	6.3	7.0
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Montana		8.5	8.7	8.7	9.3	9.7	9.5	9.7	10.2	11.0
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Montana**	White non-Hispanic	9,373	9,376	9,458	9,445	9,172	9,226	8,894	8,818	8,951
		Black non-Hispanic	35	32	36	34	24	33	31	18	38
		Hispanic	292	260	189	190	250	282	298	302	336
		Other	1,913	1,845	1,789	1,696	1,621	1,601	1,633	1,711	1,470
		Total	**11,613**	**11,513**	**11,472**	**11,365**	**11,067**	**11,142**	**10,856**	**10,849**	**10,795**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Nebraska

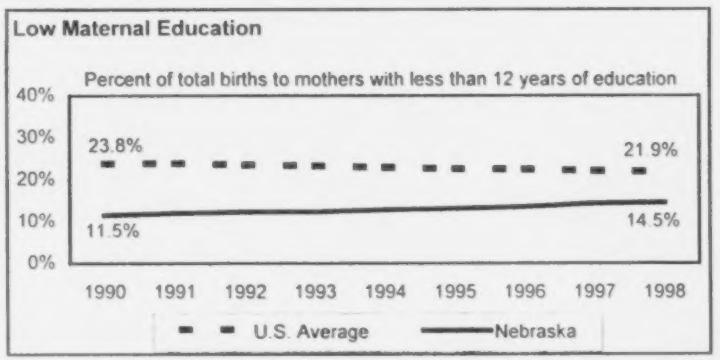
Between 1990 and 1998, the yearly number of births in Nebraska decreased from 24,380 to 23,534. While births to whites decreased substantially during this time, the percentage of births to Hispanics tripled, from 3 percent in 1990 to 9 percent in 1998.*

During the 1990s, Nebraska had a reduction in the proportion of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and a rise in the percentage of births to unmarried women. Throughout this time, when compared with the U.S. average, Nebraska's children got off to a healthier start to life on most indicators, including the share of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births remained less common in Nebraska than in the nation as a whole throughout the 1990s. While births to teenagers accounted for between 10 percent and 11 percent of Nebraska births over the 1990-1998 period, they made up a steady 13 percent of births in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** There was a marked decrease in the proportion of Nebraska teen births to young women who were already mothers, from 22 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 18 percent in 1998. Furthermore, Nebraska remained below the U.S. average on this measure throughout the nine-year period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Like the U.S. as a whole, Nebraska experienced a sizable rise in the percentage of births to unmarried women during the 1990s, from 21 percent in 1990 to 26 percent in 1997 and 1998. However, births to unmarried women were less common in Nebraska than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Low maternal education.** During the 1990s, the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education increased from 11 percent in 1990 to almost 15 percent in 1998. The U.S. as a whole, in contrast, experienced a decline on this measure over the nine-year period. Despite these trends, Nebraska remained substantially below the national average throughout the 1990s.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care accounted for a steady 3 percent of Nebraska births throughout the 1990s. At the same time, the nation as a whole experienced a notable decline on this measure. Nonetheless, the share of Nebraska births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care remained below the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Both Nebraska and the U.S. overall experienced a sharp decline in maternal smoking from 1990 to 1998. In Nebraska, births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy accounted for 16 percent of births in 1998, compared with 21 percent in 1990. However, smoking during pregnancy remained more common in Nebraska than in the nation as a whole throughout this time.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The percentage of Nebraska births that were low-birthweight rose from 5 percent in 1990 to 7 percent in 1997 and 1998. Despite this increase, low-birthweight births were less prevalent in Nebraska than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s.
- **Preterm births.** Over the 1990-1998 period, Nebraska saw a rise in the share of preterm births, but remained below the U.S. average in 1998. Eleven percent of Nebraska births were preterm in 1998, compared with 12 percent of births in the U.S. as a whole.

In summary, when compared with the 1998 U.S. average, the children of Nebraska got off to a healthier start to life on all but one indicator: the proportion of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy. Even on this measure, though, Nebraska experienced a striking reduction during the 1990s. The state also saw a marked decline in the percentage of teen births that were repeat births. During the same period, there were notable increases in the percentages of births to unmarried women and to mothers with less than 12 years of education.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Nebraska		9.8	9.8	9.9	10.1	11.0	10.0	10.6	10.5	10.6
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Nebraska		21.7	22.0	20.0	19.9	18.6	17.3	16.8	18.5	18.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Nebraska		20.7	21.6	22.6	23.5	24.8	24.3	24.8	25.8	26.2
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Nebraska		11.5	12.0	12.3	12.3	12.8	13.1	13.5	14.3	14.5
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Nebraska		3.3	3.2	3.2	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.6	2.9	3.2
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Nebraska		20.8	19.7	19.9	18.9	18.5	17.5	16.5	16.6	16.3
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Nebraska		5.3	5.6	5.6	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.3	7.0	6.5
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Nebraska		8.5	8.9	8.8	9.6	9.5	10.4	10.0	10.8	10.7
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Nebraska**	White non-Hispanic	21,332	20,767	20,013	19,621	19,399	19,289	19,050	18,817	18,753
		Black non-Hispanic	1,376	1,334	1,306	1,251	1,265	1,209	1,193	1,236	1,227
		Hispanic	802	954	1,105	1,261	1,382	1,615	1,866	1,978	2,192
		Other	870	962	973	1,091	1,110	1,130	1,177	1,288	1,362
		Total	**24,380**	**24,017**	**23,397**	**23,224**	**23,156**	**23,243**	**23,286**	**23,319**	**23,534**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Nevada

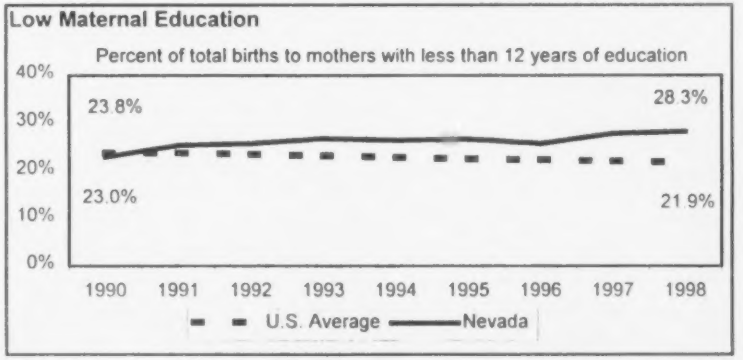
There was a considerable rise in the yearly number of births in Nevada, from 21,599 in 1990 to 28,699 in 1998. The proportion of Nevada births to Hispanics doubled during this period, from 15 percent in 1990 to 30 percent in 1998, while the percentage of births to whites decreased markedly.*

Nevada experienced a dramatic drop over the 1990-1998 period in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy. At the same time, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The proportion of Nevada births to teenagers ranged from 12 percent to 14 percent during the 1990s. In 1998, teen births accounted for 13 percent of births in Nevada, close to the U.S. average.
- **Repeat teen births.** Teen births to young women who were already mothers made up between 21 percent and 23 percent of Nevada teen births over the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, the percentage of Nevada teen births that were repeat births was not significantly different from the U.S. average.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The percentage of births to unmarried women increased fairly rapidly between 1990 and 1996. The apparent decline in 1997 is almost entirely due to a change in reporting procedures.** In 1997 and 1998, about 35 percent of Nevada births were to unmarried women, slightly higher than the national average.
- **Low maternal education.** During the 1990s, there was a sharp increase in the share of Nevada births to mothers with less than 12 years of education, contrasting with a decline on this measure in the U.S. overall. In 1998, 28 percent of Nevada births were to mothers with less than 12 years of education, compared with the national average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The proportion of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care fluctuated during the 1990s, but was slightly lower in 1998 than in 1990. The U.S. as a whole experienced a more pronounced drop on this measure, widening the gap between Nevada and the national average over this period. In 1998, 7 percent of births in Nevada were to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, compared with 4 percent of births in the nation overall.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Nevada witnessed a remarkable decline in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, from 20 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1998. Nevada was in line with the national average on this measure in 1998.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight babies made up a relatively constant share of births in Nevada and the U.S. as a whole over the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 8 percent of births in both Nevada and the nation overall were low-birthweight.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births became a larger proportion of Nevada births over the 1990-1998 period, rising from 11 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1998. Preterm births were slightly more prevalent in Nevada than in the nation as a whole throughout the nine-year period.

In summary, Nevada saw a marked increase in the proportion of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education over the 1990-1998 period. Moreover, the percentages of Nevada births to mothers with less than 12 years of education and to mothers who received late or no prenatal care were considerably higher than the U.S. average in 1998. On the other hand, the state experienced a striking drop during the 1990s in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race

** In 1997, Nevada began asking for mother's marital status directly. For more details, see Appendix 2

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Nevada		12.6	12.9	12.4	13.3	13.3	13.7	13.3	13.5	13.1
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Nevada		23.1	22.4	21.6	22.1	20.6	21.4	20.8	21.7	22.8
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*25.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Nevada**		25.4	31.9	33.3	34.0	35.0	38.8	39.3	35.5	35.0
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Nevada		23.0	25.4	25.8	26.8	26.4	26.7	25.8	27.8	28.3
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Nevada		8.1	10.1	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.9	6.0	6.3	7.0
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Nevada		20.1	20.8	19.6	18.5	17.8	16.1	13.3	13.6	12.8
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Nevada		7.2	7.2	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Nevada		11.1	11.6	11.6	12.1	12.0	11.4	11.7	12.3	12.9
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Nevada***	White non-Hispanic	15,378	15,143	14,901	14,739	15,231	15,459	15,386	15,121	15,603
		Black non-Hispanic	1,887	2,043	2,127	1,958	2,042	1,863	1,941	2,064	2,182
		Hispanic	3,261	3,679	4,116	4,413	5,227	6,124	6,966	7,713	8,727
		Other	1,073	1,161	1,230	1,293	1,411	1,610	1,832	2,013	2,187
		Total	**21,599**	**22,026**	**22,374**	**22,403**	**23,911**	**25,056**	**26,125**	**26,911**	**28,699**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**See text, footnote ** in text, and Appendix 2 for more details.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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New Hampshire

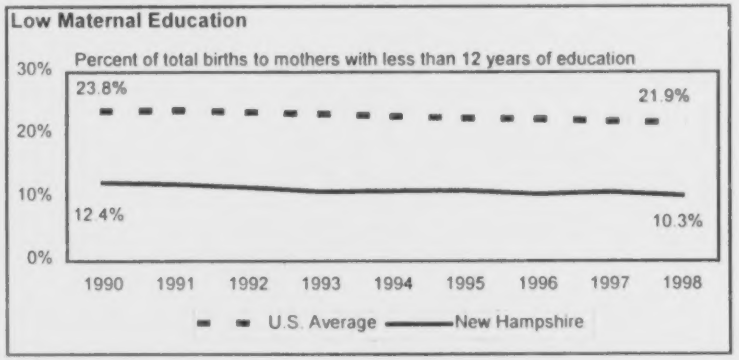
The yearly number of births in New Hampshire fell from 17,569 in 1990 to 14,429 in 1998. Births to non-Hispanic whites accounted for 92 percent of total births in 1998.* **

When compared with the national average in 1998, New Hampshire's children got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators, including the percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education (see figure). Moreover, the state saw a number of improvements during the 1990-1998 period, including a drop in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy. At the same time, there was a sharp rise in the proportion of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990s, teen births accounted for a much smaller share of births in New Hampshire than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 8 percent of births in New Hampshire were to teens, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of New Hampshire teen births to young women who were already mothers fell, from 18 percent in 1990 to 13 percent in 1996. Although the percentage then rose to 15 percent by 1998, New Hampshire remained below the national average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The increase in the share of New Hampshire births to unmarried women outpaced the rise in the U.S. average. Unmarried women made up 24 percent of New Hampshire births in 1997 and 1998, compared with 17 percent in 1990. Throughout this time, however, births to unmarried women remained considerably less common in New Hampshire than in the U.S overall.
- **Low maternal education.** The proportion of births in New Hampshire to women with less than 12 years of education in New Hampshire decreased from 12 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, births to women with less than 12 years of education were only half as common in New Hampshire as in the nation as a whole.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Throughout the 1990s, the share of New Hampshire births to women who received late or no prenatal care remained substantially below the U.S. average. In 1998, births to women who received late or no prenatal care made up 2 percent of births in New Hampshire, compared with 4 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The percentage of New Hampshire births to women who smoked during pregnancy declined from 21 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 17 percent in 1996-1998. Throughout this time, however, births to women who smoked during pregnancy remained more common in New Hampshire than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight births were consistently less prevalent in New Hampshire than in the nation as a whole during the 1990s. In 1998, 6 percent of births in New Hampshire were low-birthweight, compared with a national average of 8 percent.
- **Preterm births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, the share of New Hampshire births that were preterm remained below the U.S. average. In 1998, preterm births accounted for 8 percent of births in New Hampshire, compared with 12 percent in the nation as a whole.

In summary, when compared with the U.S. average in 1998, the children of New Hampshire got off to a healthier start to life on all measures except maternal smoking. Further, there were several improvements during the 1990s, including drops in the shares of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and of teen births that were repeat births. However, the state also saw a substantial rise in the proportion of births to unmarried women and increases in the percentages of preterm and low-birthweight births.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** Because Hispanic origin of births was not collected until 1993 and was not reliably reported until 1994, the racial/ethnic distribution of births is available only from 1994 and later.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	New Hampshire		7.2	7.1	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.6	7.4	7.8	7.7
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	New Hampshire		18.2	18.0	18.5	17.3	15.9	16.3	12.6	14.1	14.7
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	New Hampshire		16.9	18.3	19.2	20.6	22.1	22.2	23.4	23.8	24.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	New Hampshire		12.4	12.1	11.7	11.0	11.1	11.1	10.5	10.9	10.3
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	New Hampshire		2.5	2.5	2.1	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.9
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	New Hampshire		20.8	20.7	19.6	18.5	18.2	17.5	16.8	17.4	16.6
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	New Hampshire		4.9	4.9	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.5	4.8	5.8	5.7
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	New Hampshire		6.8	7.2	7.3	7.7	7.5	8.2	7.0	8.2	8.1
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	New Hampshire** *** ****	White non-Hispanic	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.R.	13,848	13,659	13,649	13,350	13,332
		Black non-Hispanic	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.R.	87	75	98	96	116
		Hispanic	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.R.	187	214	231	228	256
		Other	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.R.	984	717	542	639	725
		Total	**17,569**	**16,341**	**15,990**	**15,436**	**15,106**	**14,665**	**14,520**	**14,313**	**14,429**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**N.A. = Not Available. See footnote ** in text.

***N.R. = Not Reliable. See footnote ** in text.

****The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

New Jersey

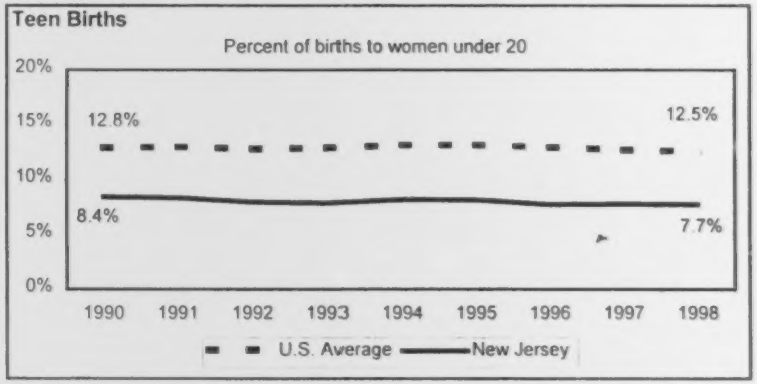
The yearly number of births in New Jersey declined from 122,289 in 1990 to 114,550 in 1998. At the same time, the number of births to Hispanic mothers increased. While Hispanic births accounted for 14 percent of all births in 1990, they accounted for 18 percent in 1998.*

During the 1990-1998 period, New Jersey saw a number of relatively small changes in measures of a healthy start to life, including an overall drop in the share of teen births to young women who were already mothers and a rise in the share of all births to unmarried women. Throughout this time, the percentages of New Jersey births to teens (see figure) and to women with less than 12 years of education were substantially below the respective national averages.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** During the 1990s, teen births accounted for a much smaller share of births in New Jersey than in the U.S. as a whole. Throughout this time, 8 percent of births in New Jersey were to teens, compared with the U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s but dropped overall, from 24 percent in 1990 to 20 percent by 1994, and remained relatively stable thereafter. The nation as a whole saw a similar overall downward trend.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The share of New Jersey births to unmarried women increased from 24 percent in 1990 to 28 percent in 1994 through 1998. This change mirrored the increase in the national average.
- **Low maternal education.** During the 1990-1998 period, births to women with less than 12 years of education remained markedly less common in New Jersey than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, women with less than 12 years of education accounted for 14 percent of births in New Jersey, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care made up a relatively steady share of New Jersey births during the 1990-1998 period, despite a downward trend in the national average. In 1998, 5 percent of births in New Jersey were to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, compared with 4 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy in New Jersey decreased from 13 percent in 1990 to a low of 8 percent in 1994, and then rose to 11 percent by 1998. Despite a considerably stronger downward trend in the national average, New Jersey remained below the national average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of New Jersey births that were low-birthweight remained close to the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. At 8 percent in 1998, New Jersey was just above the U.S. average.
- **Preterm births.** During the 1990s, the proportion of New Jersey births that were preterm fluctuated somewhat but underwent an overall rise, from 11 percent in 1990 through 1993 to 12 percent in 1998. On par with the U.S. average for this indicator in 1990, New Jersey was just above the U.S. average in 1998.

In summary, New Jersey saw a number of small changes in measures of a healthy start to life over the 1990-1998 period. On the one hand, there were increases in the shares of preterm births and births to unmarried women. On the other hand, the percentage of teen births that were repeat births declined somewhat, as did the proportion of all births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy. Moreover, the percentages of New Jersey births to teenagers and to women with less than 12 years of education remained well below the respective national averages throughout the nine-year span.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	New Jersey		8.4	8.4	8.0	7.9	8.2	8.2	7.7	7.8	7.7
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	New Jersey		23.6	22.6	23.9	21.8	20.1	20.0	19.9	20.6	20.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	New Jersey		24.3	26.3	26.4	27.1	28.1	27.6	28.0	28.0	28.3
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	New Jersey		15.2	15.3	14.9	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.3	14.0	13.9
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	New Jersey		4.5	4.6	4.6	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.6
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	New Jersey		13.2	11.9	10.3	9.4	8.5	8.9	12.0	12.1	11.2
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	New Jersey		7.0	7.4	7.2	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.9	8.0
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	New Jersey		10.7	10.8	10.8	11.1	11.5	10.5	11.5	12.2	12.5
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	New Jersey**	White non-Hispanic	78,423	76,192	74,348	72,747	71,802	69,375	67,216	66,168	66,244
		Black non-Hispanic	22,130	22,697	22,103	21,384	21,546	19,518	19,227	19,302	19,424
		Hispanic	16,972	17,500	17,609	17,650	18,083	18,835	19,451	19,635	20,493
		Other	4,764	5,017	5,849	5,905	6,070	7,100	8,412	8,174	8,389
		Total	**122,289**	**121,406**	**119,909**	**117,686**	**117,501**	**114,828**	**114,306**	**113,279**	**114,550**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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New Mexico

The yearly number of births in New Mexico remained steady during the 1990s. There were 27,402 births in 1990 and 27,318 births in 1998. The percentage of New Mexico births to Hispanics rose during this time, from 45 percent to 50 percent.*

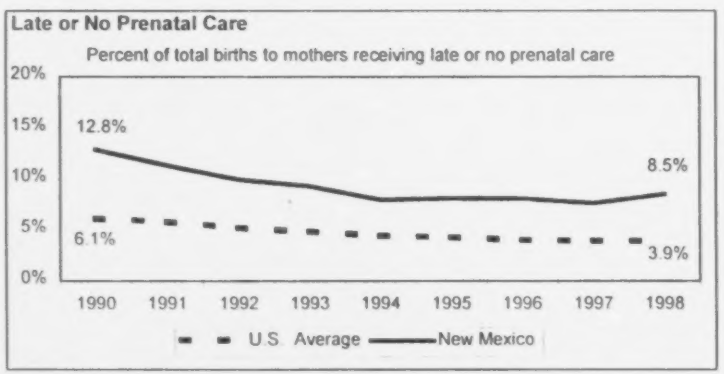
During the 1990s, New Mexico saw two important improvements: a considerable decrease in the share of teen births to young women who were already mothers and a marked drop in the share of births to women receiving late or no prenatal care (see figure). At the same time, however, there was a dramatic increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The percentage of teen births in New Mexico rose from 16 percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 1993, and then remained stable through 1998. In contrast, births to teenagers made up a steady 13 percent of births in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990s.
- **Repeat teen births.** Teen births to young women who were already mothers accounted for 23 percent of New Mexico teen births in the early 1990s and 20 percent in 1994 through 1998. This overall decline from 1990 to 1998 was similar to the downward trend in the U.S. as a whole, with New Mexico just below the U.S. average throughout this time.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Already above the national average in 1990, the percentage of New Mexico births to unmarried women rose sharply, outpacing a similar increase in the national average. Births to unmarried women accounted for 44 percent of New Mexico births in 1998, compared with 35 percent in 1990.
- **Low maternal education.** During the 1990s, births to mothers with less than 12 years of education ranged between 27 percent and 29 percent of New Mexico births. Throughout this period, New Mexico was higher than the U.S. average, which declined from 24 percent of total births in 1990 to 22 percent in 1998.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Both New Mexico and the U.S. as a whole experienced a noteworthy decline in the percentage of births to women receiving late or no prenatal care during the 1990s. However, New Mexico was twice as high as the national average on this indicator in 1998, when 9 percent of New Mexico births were to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, compared with the national average of 4 percent.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Despite fluctuations during the 1990s, the proportion of New Mexico births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy was 11 percent in both 1990 and 1998. The U.S. as a whole, in contrast, saw a substantial decline in maternal smoking over this period. Nevertheless, smoking during pregnancy remained less common in New Mexico than in the nation overall throughout this time.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of low-birthweight births in New Mexico was between 7 percent and 8 percent during the 1990s. In 1998, 8 percent of births were low-birthweight in both New Mexico and the U.S. overall.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births accounted for 11 percent of New Mexico births throughout the 1990-1998 period, remaining close to the national average on this indicator throughout the nine-year span.

In summary, New Mexico saw sizable drops during the 1990s in the percentages of teen births that were repeat births and births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care. Also, the proportion of New Mexico mothers who smoked during pregnancy was below the national average.

Nevertheless, there was a striking increase in the share of births to unmarried women, as well as a small increase in the proportion of births to teens. Moreover, the percentages of births to teens, to unmarried women, to women with less than 12 years of education, and to women receiving late or no prenatal care were well above the respective national averages during this time.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	New Mexico		16.3	16.5	17.0	17.8	18.0	18.4	17.8	17.9	18.2
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	New Mexico		22.9	23.3	22.9	21.9	20.2	20.1	19.7	19.6	19.8
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	New Mexico		35.4	37.6	39.5	41.4	41.7	42.6	42.1	43.5	44.0
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	New Mexico		27.2	27.6	29.0	28.8	28.1	28.0	28.0	27.1	28.2
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	New Mexico		12.8	11.3	9.9	9.3	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.6	8.5
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	New Mexico		11.3	11.8	11.8	11.1	9.9	10.2	11.3	10.3	11.0
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	New Mexico		7.4	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.3	7.5	7.5	7.8	7.6
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	New Mexico		11.0	10.5	10.6	11.3	11.2	11.2	10.9	11.0	11.3
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	New Mexico**	White non-Hispanic	10,527	10,563	10,331	10,155	10,185	9,914	10,085	9,545	9,453
		Black non-Hispanic	512	550	489	525	505	473	439	477	468
		Hispanic	12,193	12,592	12,957	13,054	12,984	12,900	13,255	13,322	13,714
		Other	4,170	4,095	4,145	4,118	3,917	3,633	3,449	3,527	3,683
		Total	**27,402**	**27,800**	**27,922**	**27,852**	**27,591**	**26,920**	**27,228**	**26,871**	**27,318**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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New York State

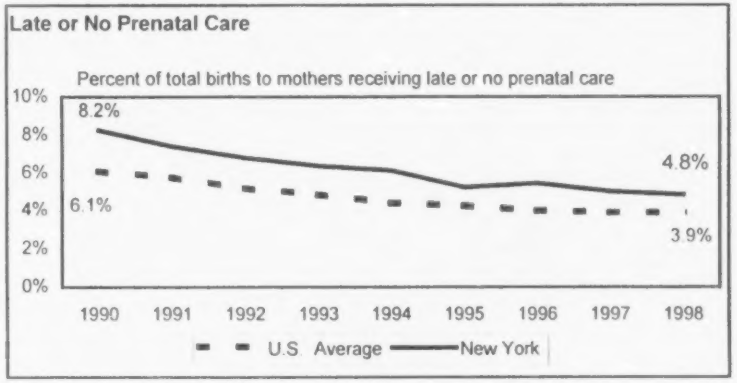
The yearly number of births in New York State (including New York City) declined from 297,576 in 1990 to 258,207 in 1998. This decline was most evident among whites, who accounted for 48 percent of New York births in 1998, compared with 56 percent in 1990.*

Over the 1990-1998 period, New York saw substantial decreases in the percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers and in the proportion of total births to women who received late or no prenatal care (see figure). Moreover, teen births were less common in New York than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the nine-year span.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The proportion of New York births to teens remained markedly below the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, teenagers accounted for 9 percent of births in New York, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Repeat teen births.** During the 1990s, there was a drop in the percentage of New York teen births to young women who were already mothers, from a high of 23 percent in 1991 to 18 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, repeat teen births made up a smaller share of teen births in New York than in the nation as a whole.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Births to unmarried women in New York City were overstated during 1990 through 1996 (New York City accounts for nearly half of all New York State's births).** Changes in coding procedures in 1997 in New York City have resulted in more reliable data for the city and the state. In 1998, 35 percent of New York births were to unmarried women.
- **Low maternal education.** Between 1992, when data on maternal education first became available, and 1998, women with less than 12 years of education accounted for a smaller share of births in New York than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, 19 percent of New York births were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with a national average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The proportion of births to New York mothers who received late or no prenatal care decreased from 8 percent in 1990 to 5 percent in 1998. This change mirrored the downward trend for the U.S. as a whole. However, the percentage of births to New York women who received late or no prenatal care remained somewhat above the U.S. average throughout the nine-year period.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Data on smoking during pregnancy were available only for New York City births, not for the balance of the state.***
- **Low-birthweight births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, 8 percent of New York births were low-birthweight. New York was close to the U.S. average for this indicator in 1998.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births accounted for 11 percent of New York births throughout the 1990s. In 1998, preterm births were slightly less prevalent in New York than in the nation as a whole, where 12 percent of births were preterm.

In summary, during the 1990s, the state of New York experienced marked reductions in the percentages of teen births to young women who were already mothers and total births to women who received late or no prenatal care. While the proportion of births to women who received late or no prenatal care remained somewhat above the national average during the 1990-1998 period, the share of New York births to teens remained substantially below the national average throughout this time.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** See Appendix 2 and New York City pages in *The Right Start City Trends*.

*** See Appendix 2 for more details.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	New York		9.1	9.2	9.0	9.3	9.5	9.3	9.2	8.8	8.8
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	New York		22.5	22.8	22.2	22.2	21.3	20.8	20.0	19.1	18.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	New York**		33.0	34.1	34.8	37.2	37.6	37.9	39.6	35.2	34.9
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	New York***		N.A.	N.A.	18.8	19.2	19.3	19.6	19.5	19.1	19.2
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	New York		8.2	7.4	6.8	6.4	6.1	5.2	5.4	5.0	4.8
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	New York***		N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	New York		7.6	7.9	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.7	7.8	7.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	New York		10.7	10.9	10.6	10.7	10.6	10.7	10.7	11.0	10.9
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	New York****	White non-Hispanic	165,220	159,146	154,439	147,516	144,340	121,349	119,291	117,641	124,220
		Black non-Hispanic	56,998	56,986	55,549	53,848	53,155	49,730	48,096	47,172	48,533
		Hispanic	53,140	53,694	53,047	51,847	53,216	54,193	52,684	50,720	52,259
		Other	22,218	22,807	24,852	29,181	27,681	46,097	43,892	41,705	33,195
		Total	**297,576**	**292,633**	**287,887**	**282,392**	**278,392**	**271,369**	**263,963**	**257,238**	**258,207**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**See text and footnote ** in text.

***N.A. - Not Available. See Appendix 2 for more details.

****The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

North Carolina

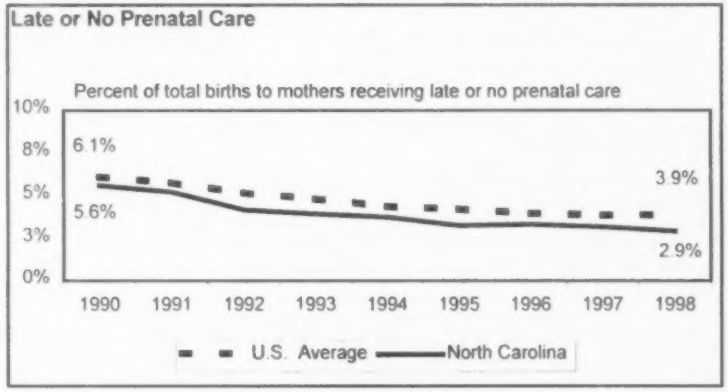
The yearly number of births in North Carolina increased from 104,525 in 1990 to 111,688 in 1998. The percentage of North Carolina births to Hispanics more than tripled during this time, rising from 2 percent of all births in 1990 to 7 percent in 1998.*

North Carolina experienced improvements in five measures of a healthy start to life over the 1990-1998 period. Particularly striking were a marked decline in the proportion of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and a substantial drop in the share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The proportion of births to teenagers in North Carolina decreased from 16 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 14 percent in 1997 and 1998. Throughout the 1990s, teen births remained more common in North Carolina than in the nation as a whole, where a steady 13 percent of births were to teen mothers.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s, but declined overall, from 25 percent in 1990 to 22 percent in 1996 through 1998. Since the U.S. as a whole experienced a similar decline from 1990 to 1998, North Carolina remained close to the national average throughout this time.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a marked increase in the proportion of North Carolina births to unmarried women, from 29 percent in 1990 to 33 percent in 1998. North Carolina matched the U.S. average in 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** The percentage of North Carolina births to women with less than 12 years of education ranged from a high of 23 percent in 1990 and 1991 to a low of 21 percent in 1994-1995. At 22 percent in 1998, North Carolina matched the national average.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The share of North Carolina births to women who received late or no prenatal care fell from 6 percent in 1990 to 3 percent in 1998. North Carolina remained below the national average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** There was a marked reduction in the percentage of North Carolina births to women who smoked during pregnancy from 21 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 1997 and 1998. Despite this change, smoking during pregnancy remained more common in North Carolina than in the nation overall throughout the period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The percentage of North Carolina babies born at a low birthweight remained just above the national average throughout the 1990s. In 1998, 9 percent of births in North Carolina were low-birthweight, compared with 8 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births were somewhat more prevalent in North Carolina than in the nation as a whole during the 1990s. In 1998, preterm births accounted for 13 percent of births in North Carolina, compared with a national average of 12 percent.

In summary, North Carolina experienced improvements on five of eight measures of a healthy start to life during the 1990s. These improvements include a dramatic reduction in the percentage of births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care, as well as sizable decreases in the proportions of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and births to teen mothers. During the same time, there was an increase in the share of births to unmarried women.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	North Carolina		16.2	16.2	15.4	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	14.4	14.0
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	North Carolina		24.9	25.5	26.1	23.4	20.6	19.8	22.0	21.5	22.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	North Carolina		29.4	31.6	31.3	32.1	31.9	31.4	32.0	32.2	32.8
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	North Carolina		22.7	23.2	22.1	21.6	21.1	21.1	21.5	21.6	21.7
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	North Carolina		5.6	5.2	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.9
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	North Carolina		20.7	19.7	18.6	17.8	17.1	15.9	15.8	15.2	14.9
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	North Carolina		8.0	8.4	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	[illegible]
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	North Carolina		12.5	12.8	12.5	12.9	12.5	12.6	12.5	12.7	12.7
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	North Carolina**	White non-Hispanic	69,512	67,561	68,482	66,506	67,272	67,262	68,481	69,102	71,294
		Black non-Hispanic	30,726	30,381	30,262	29,435	27,807	26,833	27,029	27,376	28,153
		Hispanic	1,754	1,833	2,379	2,560	3,135	4,244	5,433	6,906	8,104
		Other	2,533	2,587	2,844	2,856	3,206	3,253	3,527	3,631	4,137
		Total	**104,525**	**102,362**	**103,967**	**101,357**	**101,420**	**101,592**	**104,470**	**107,015**	**111,688**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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North Dakota

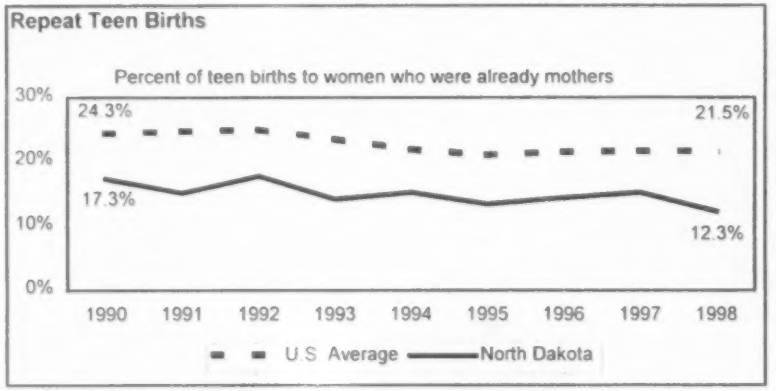
The yearly number of births in North Dakota fell from 9,250 in 1990 to 7,932 in 1998. Births to whites accounted for 85 percent of total births in 1998.* Births to American Indians (included in Other) accounted for 9 percent of North Dakota births in 1998.

When compared with the U.S. average, North Dakota's children got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators in 1998. Moreover, the state saw a marked drop during the 1990s in the share of teen births to young women who were already mothers (see figure). At the same time, there was a large increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teenagers consistently accounted for a smaller share of births in North Dakota than in the nation as a whole during the 1990s. In 1998, 10 percent of North Dakota births were to teenagers, compared with the U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated, but underwent an overall drop, from 17 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1998. North Dakota remained well below the national average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The dramatic increase in the share of North Dakota births to unmarried women outpaced the upward trend in the U.S. average. Unmarried women accounted for 27 percent of North Dakota births in 1998, compared with just 18 percent in 1990. Despite this change, births to unmarried women remained less common in North Dakota than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s.
- **Low maternal education.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, the percentage of North Dakota births to women with less than 12 years of education was far below the national average. In 1998, births to women with less than 12 years of education accounted for 10 percent of births in North Dakota, compared with 22 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Births to women who received late or no prenatal care made up a smaller proportion of births in North Dakota than in the nation as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 3 percent of births in North Dakota were to women who received late or no prenatal care, compared with 4 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** During the 1990s, the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy fluctuated, undergoing an overall decline from 22 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 1998. Smoking during pregnancy remained more common in North Dakota than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s.
- **Low-birthweight births.** There was an increase in the share of North Dakota births that were low-birthweight, from a low of 5 percent in 1991 to 7 percent in 1998. Despite this increase, the percentage of North Dakota babies born at a low birthweight remained below the U.S. average throughout the period.
- **Preterm births.** The proportion of North Dakota births that were preterm increased from 8 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 11 percent in 1998. Preterm births were slightly less common in North Dakota than in the U.S. overall in 1998.

In summary, when compared with the national average in 1998, the children of North Dakota got off to a healthier start to life on all but one measure: smoking during pregnancy. Furthermore, North Dakota saw a substantial decrease over the 1990-1998 period in the share of teen births that were repeat births. On the other hand, there was a striking rise in the share of North Dakota births to unmarried women, as well as increases in the percentages of preterm and low-birthweight births.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race

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Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	North Dakota		8.6	8.7	9.3	9.6	9.4	9.6	9.6	9.1	9.8
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	North Dakota		17.3	15.1	17.7	14.2	15.2	13.4	14.4	15.2	12.3
	U.S. Average		*24.5*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	North Dakota		18.4	22.0	22.6	23.0	23.0	23.5	25.1	26.0	27.0
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	North Dakota		9.2	10.1	9.6	9.8	9.3	9.5	9.0	8.7	10.0
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	North Dakota		3.1	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.2	2.5
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	North Dakota		21.9	22.3	20.6	19.7	19.5	17.9	18.4	20.1	19.5
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	North Dakota		5.5	4.8	5.1	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.7	6.2	6.5
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	North Dakota		8.3	8.3	9.0	9.1	9.3	10.1	9.3	10.2	10.6
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	North Dakota**	White non-Hispanic	8,160	7,734	7,657	7,544	7,513	7,375	7,135	7,100	6,707
		Black non-Hispanic	80	84	73	88	67	68	86	80	82
		Hispanic	123	110	119	122	116	147	137	170	152
		Other	887	959	962	936	888	886	989	1,003	991
		Total	**9,250**	**8,887**	**8,811**	**8,690**	**8,584**	**8,476**	**8,347**	**8,353**	**7,932**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Ohio

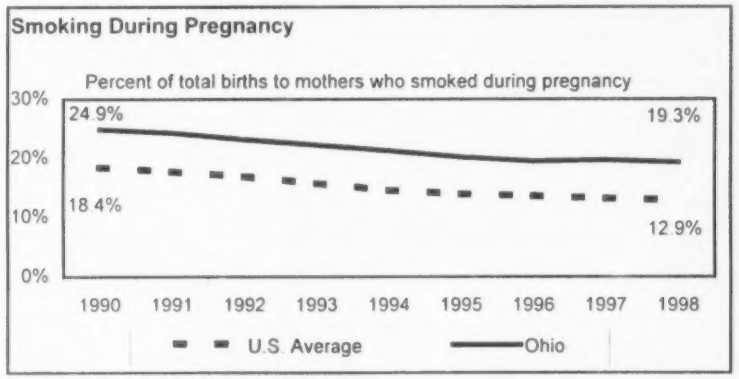
The yearly number of births in Ohio decreased from 166,913 in 1990 to 152,794 in 1998. In 1998, births to whites accounted for 81 percent of total births, while births to blacks accounted for 15 percent.*

Over the 1990-1998 period, Ohio experienced a marked drop in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, although this percentage remained well above the national average throughout the nine-year span (see figure). There was also a decrease in the proportion of teen births to young women who were already mothers and an increase in the share of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births accounted for 14 percent of Ohio births in 1990 through 1995 and 13 percent of births thereafter. In 1998, Ohio was close to the U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of Ohio teen births to young women who already had a child fluctuated but underwent an overall drop, from 24 percent in 1990 to 21 percent by 1998. This change mirrored the overall decline in the national average.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The share of Ohio births to unmarried women rose from 29 percent in 1990 to 34 percent in 1997 and 1998. The nation as a whole saw a parallel upward trend.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to mothers with less than 12 years of education accounted for a smaller proportion of births in Ohio than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 18 percent of births in Ohio were to mothers with less than 12 years of education, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** It is not possible to interpret the trends in this indicator because of incomplete reporting of this information in Ohio.** In 1997 and 1998, however, the number of births to mothers who reported receiving late or no prenatal care was around 25 percent higher than in 1996.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Ohio experienced a substantial decrease in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy from 25 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 1998. Despite this decrease, smoking during pregnancy remained considerably more common in Ohio than in the nation as a whole.
- **Low-birthweight births.** In both Ohio and the U.S. overall, low-birthweight babies accounted for 7 percent of births in 1990 and 8 percent in 1998.
- **Preterm births.** The percentage of preterm births in Ohio was similar to the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, preterm births accounted for 12 percent of births in both Ohio and the nation as a whole.

In summary, Ohio was close to the national average on most measures of a healthy start to life in 1998. Although the percentage of Ohio births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy remained higher than the national average, the state saw a sizable drop in this measure over the 1990-1998 period. In addition, there was a reduction in the share of Ohio teen births that were repeat births. However, the rise in the percentage of births to unmarried women is noteworthy.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** See Appendix 2 for more details.

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Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Ohio		13.8	14.0	13.6	13.6	13.7	13.7	13.3	13.3	13.0
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Ohio		23.8	24.8	25.1	23.5	21.2	20.3	21.0	20.9	21.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Ohio		28.9	30.7	31.6	33.0	32.9	33.0	33.1	33.9	34.0
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Ohio		19.4	19.9	19.2	19.0	18.1	17.7	17.5	17.8	17.9
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Ohio**		4.1	4.1	3.9	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.4	4.3	4.2
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Ohio		24.9	24.3	23.2	22.2	21.3	20.2	19.5	19.7	19.3
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Ohio		7.1	7.5	7.4	7.5	7.5	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.7
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Ohio		10.6	11.0	10.7	11.3	11.1	11.2	11.0	11.5	11.7
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Ohio***	White non-Hispanic	136,756	135,107	131,703	128,656	127,425	126,215	124,295	123,489	123,800
		Black non-Hispanic	25,809	26,227	25,880	25,321	23,505	22,702	21,876	22,120	22,286
		Hispanic	2,427	2,554	2,583	2,655	2,717	2,801	3,004	3,432	3,470
		Other	1,921	1,907	2,081	2,161	2,297	2,346	2,517	2,992	3,238
		Total	**166,913**	**165,795**	**162,247**	**158,793**	**155,944**	**154,064**	**151,692**	**152,033**	**152,794**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**See text and Appendix 2.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Oklahoma

The yearly number of births in Oklahoma increased from 47,649 in 1990 to 49,461 in 1998. The number of births to Hispanics nearly doubled from 1991, when data for Hispanic births are first available to 1998, while the number of births to both whites and blacks decreased. Whites were the majority of Oklahoma births throughout this time, accounting for 71 percent of births in 1998.* Births to American Indians (included in Other) accounted for one in ten Oklahoma births in 1998.

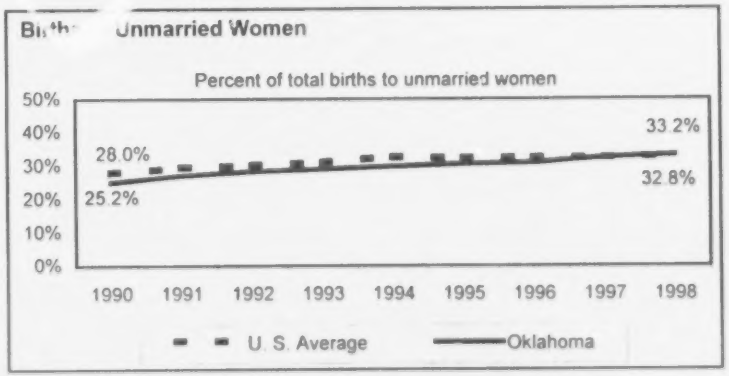
Over the 1990-1998 period, Oklahoma experienced a marked decrease in the proportion of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care but also a considerable rise in the percentage of births to unmarried women (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, births to teenagers accounted for 16 to 17 percent of Oklahoma births, compared with the national average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** Data on repeat teen births in 1997 and 1998 are not shown due to considerable underreporting of birth order.** In 1996, 20 percent of teen births were to young women who were already mothers. This is not significantly different from the U.S. average.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a steady rise in the percentage of Oklahoma births to unmarried women from 25 percent in 1990 to 33 percent in 1998. This increase brought Oklahoma from below the U.S. average in 1990 to matching the average in 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** During the 1990s, between 23 percent and 24 percent of births in Oklahoma were to women with less than 12 years of education. The state was just above the U.S. average of 22 percent in 1998.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** There was a marked decline in the share of births to Oklahoma mothers receiving late or no prenatal care that narrowed the gap between Oklahoma and the U.S. average during the 1990s. In 1998, births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care accounted for 5 percent of Oklahoma births, compared with 4 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Oklahoma witnessed a slight reduction in maternal smoking from 1991, when data first became available, to 1998. However, the U.S. as a whole experienced a sharper drop in this measure, leaving Oklahoma above the national average throughout the nine-year period. In 1998, births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy accounted for 19 percent of Oklahoma births, compared with 13 percent of births in the nation overall.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Babies born at a low birthweight accounted for 7 percent of Oklahoma births throughout the 1990-1998 period. Oklahoma virtually matched the U.S. average throughout this time.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births became a slightly larger share of Oklahoma births, rising from 10 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1998. Oklahoma was on par with the U.S. average in 1998.

In summary, Oklahoma witnessed three important improvements during the 1990-1998 period. There was a sizable reduction in the proportion of births to women who received late or no prenatal care, and smaller declines in the percentages of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and births to mothers with less than 12 years of education.

However, there was a substantial increase in the share of births to unmarried women and a rise in the percentage of births that were preterm. Moreover, the percentages of births to teens, to women who received late or no prenatal care, and to women who smoked during pregnancy were above the respective national averages in 1998.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** If it is assumed that most of the births with birth order unknown are actually first-order births, the resulting percentage of repeat teen births for Oklahoma in 1997 and 1998 is comparable to that in most other states. See Appendix 2 for more details.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Oklahoma		16.2	17.2	16.8	17.2	17.1	17.1	17.2	17.0	16.3
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Oklahoma**		22.7	24.4	24.1	23.0	21.0	20.2	20.0	N.R.	N.R.
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Oklahoma		25.2	27.1	28.4	29.1	29.8	30.5	30.9	32.4	33.2
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Oklahoma		23.6	23.7	23.4	23.5	23.3	23.3	22.9	23.3	23.0
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Oklahoma		8.3	7.3	6.4	7.0	6.1	4.9	4.6	4.8	5.1
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Oklahoma***		N.A.	19.6	18.2	18.0	18.2	17.5	17.4	17.8	18.6
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Oklahoma		6.6	6.6	6.7	6.7	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.3	7.2
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Oklahoma		10.1	10.5	10.0	10.5	10.6	10.9	11.4	11.4	11.5
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Oklahoma*** ****	White non-Hispanic	N.A.	35,684	35,320	34,074	33,595	33,727	33,772	34,750	35,059
		Black non-Hispanic	N.A.	5,135	5,124	4,896	4,734	4,469	4,459	4,676	4,688
		Hispanic	N.A.	1,862	2,045	2,133	2,260	2,356	2,881	3,226	3,616
		Other	N.A.	5,114	5,068	5,140	5,114	5,120	5,081	5,617	6,098
		Total	**47,649**	**47,795**	**47,557**	**46,243**	**45,703**	**45,672**	**46,193**	**48,269**	**49,461**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**N.R. = Not Reliable. See text, footnote ** in text, and Appendix 2.

***N.A. = Not Available. See Appendix 2 for more details.

****The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Oregon

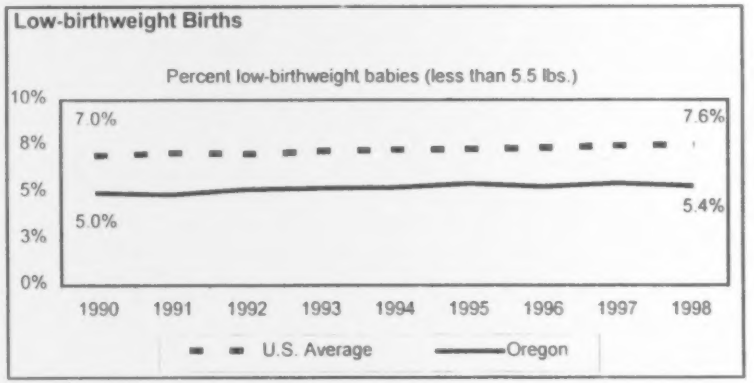
The yearly number of births in Oregon rose from 42,891 in 1990 to 45,273 in 1998. The yearly number of births to Hispanics more than doubled over this period, accounting for more than 14 percent of Oregon births in 1998, compared with 7 percent in 1990.*

Oregon witnessed a remarkable reduction in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy over the 1990-1998 period. Furthermore, when compared with the national average, babies born at a low birthweight consistently accounted for a small share of Oregon births throughout the 1990s (see figure). At the same time, however, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births accounted for 12 percent of Oregon births in 1990 through 1993 and 13 percent of births thereafter. Oregon matched the national average in the latter part of the 1990s, as a steady 13 percent of births in the nation as a whole were to teens throughout the nine-year period.
- **Repeat teen births.** There was an overall decline during the 1990s in the share of Oregon teen births to young women who were already mothers, from 21 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 1994-1998. Oregon remained below the U.S. average throughout this time.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Oregon experienced a sizable increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women, from 26 percent in 1990 to 30 percent in 1998. The nation as a whole also saw an upward trend on this measure, with Oregon consistently below the U.S. average throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to mothers with less than 12 years of education made up a slightly smaller share of births in Oregon than in the U.S. overall during the 1990s. While births to women with less than 12 years of education accounted for 21 percent to 22 percent of Oregon births during this time, they accounted for 22 percent to 24 percent of births in the nation overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** There was a small decline in the proportion of Oregon births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, from 5 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 4 percent where it remained through to 1998. In 1998, Oregon was in line with the national average.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Oregon experienced a dramatic decline in maternal smoking over the 1990s. While births to women who smoked during pregnancy accounted for 22 percent of births in 1990, they accounted for 15 percent of births in 1998. Despite this change, Oregon remained above the U.S. average throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Throughout the 1990s, babies born at a low birthweight were markedly less common in Oregon than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, low-birthweight babies accounted for 5 percent of Oregon births, compared with a national average of 8 percent.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births became a slightly larger share of Oregon births, increasing from 8 percent in 1990 to 9 percent in 1998. Preterm babies continued to account for a considerably smaller percentage of births in Oregon than in the nation overall throughout this time.

In summary, when compared with the national average, the children of Oregon got off to a significantly healthier start to life on five of eight indicators. Although the state was above the national average for the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy in 1998, Oregon experienced a substantial drop on this measure over the 1990-1998 period. The rise in the proportion of births to unmarried women is also noteworthy.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Oregon		12.0	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.8	13.0	13.2	12.5	12.5
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Oregon		20.7	22.3	21.4	20.0	18.5	19.1	18.8	18.6	19.1
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Oregon		25.7	26.6	27.0	28.2	28.7	28.9	29.7	28.8	29.7
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Oregon		21.6	21.9	21.5	21.3	21.6	21.3	21.6	20.5	20.6
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Oregon		5.4	4.6	4.0	3.8	4.3	4.3	3.9	3.6	3.8
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Oregon		22.3	21.4	20.5	18.9	18.2	17.9	17.8	16.2	15.2
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Oregon		5.0	4.9	5.2	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.4
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Oregon		8.0	8.3	8.2	8.6	8.6	8.9	8.4	9.1	9.1
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Oregon**	White non-Hispanic	37,045	36,324	35,577	34,726	34,499	34,781	34,990	34,369	35,138
		Black non-Hispanic	912	956	943	890	931	860	873	914	949
		Hispanic	2,974	3,285	3,561	4,002	4,357	5,002	5,458	5,854	6,501
		Other	1,960	1,934	1,954	1,958	2,050	2,168	2,337	2,672	2,685
		Total	**42,891**	**42,499**	**42,035**	**41,576**	**41,837**	**42,811**	**43,658**	**43,809**	**45,273**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Pennsylvania

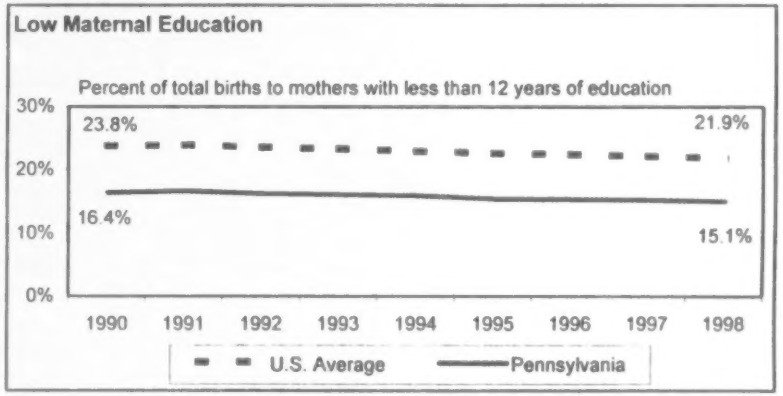
The yearly number of births in Pennsylvania decreased substantially from 171,961 in 1990 to 145,899 in 1998. While this decrease was evident among both blacks and whites, the number of births to Hispanics increased slightly over this period, and accounted for 5 percent of all Pennsylvania births in 1998.*

Pennsylvania experienced improvements on five of eight measures of a healthy start to life during the 1990s. The share of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education declined from 1990 to 1998 and was consistently below the national average throughout this time (see figure). During the same time period, there was a sizable increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Births to teenagers accounted for 11 percent of Pennsylvania births in 1990 through 1996, and 10 percent in 1997 and 1998. These values remained below the U.S. as a whole, where a steady 13 percent of births were to teens throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Pennsylvania teen births to young women who were already mothers decreased overall, from 24 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 20 percent in 1998. Pennsylvania was just below the U.S. average in both 1990 and 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Births to unmarried women became a markedly larger proportion of Pennsylvania births, rising from 29 percent in 1990 to 33 percent in 1997 and 1998. The U.S. as a whole experienced a similar rise on this measure, and Pennsylvania was close to the national average throughout this period.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education made up a substantially smaller share of births in Pennsylvania than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990s. During this time, 15 percent to 17 percent of Pennsylvania births were to mothers with less than 12 years of education, compared with 22 percent to 24 percent of births in the nation overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The proportion of Pennsylvania births to women receiving late or no prenatal care decreased from 5 percent in the early 1990s to 4 percent from 1994 through 1998. The U.S. as a whole also experienced a decline on this measure from 1990 to 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Pennsylvania saw a notable reduction in the percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 21 percent in 1990 through 1992 to 17 percent in 1998. However, Pennsylvania was above the national average throughout this time.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Both Pennsylvania and the U.S. overall witnessed a slight rise in the share of babies born at a low birthweight during the 1990s, from 7 percent in 1990 to 8 percent in 1998.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births accounted for 10 percent of Pennsylvania births in 1990-1992 and around 11 percent thereafter. Throughout this time, Pennsylvania was just below the U.S. average, which also rose slightly from 1990 to 1998.

In summary, Pennsylvania experienced improvements in five measures of a healthy start to life over the 1990-1998 period, including declines in the percentages of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, teen births that were repeat births, and births to women receiving late or no prenatal care. However, when compared with the 1998 U.S. average, the proportion of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy remained high. There was also a notable increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women during this time.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Pennsylvania		10.9	10.8	10.5	10.5	10.8	10.8	10.6	10.4	10.3
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Pennsylvania		23.6	24.0	24.5	23.6	22.1	20.8	20.4	20.6	20.4
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Pennsylvania		28.6	30.4	31.6	32.2	32.8	32.4	32.3	32.8	32.8
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Pennsylvania		16.4	16.7	16.3	16.2	16.0	15.5	15.4	15.3	15.1
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Pennsylvania		5.4	5.4	5.2	4.7	4.4	3.9	3.6	4.4	3.5
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Pennsylvania		20.9	20.7	20.5	19.9	19.3	18.6	18.1	17.9	17.5
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Pennsylvania		7.1	7.3	7.2	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.5	7.6	7.6
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Pennsylvania		10.3	10.4	10.3	10.6	10.7	10.6	10.5	10.7	10.9
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Pennsylvania**	White non-Hispanic	138,116	134,279	130,265	126,991	124,230	120,544	117,509	113,297	114,265
		Black non-Hispanic	25,221	25,296	24,987	24,013	22,956	21,062	20,237	19,947	20,272
		Hispanic	5,636	5,956	5,949	6,302	6,288	6,572	6,737	6,623	6,897
		Other	2,988	3,320	3,424	3,456	3,597	3,672	3,855	4,357	4,465
		Total	**171,961**	**168,851**	**164,625**	**160,762**	**157,071**	**151,850**	**148,338**	**144,224**	**145,899**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Rhode Island

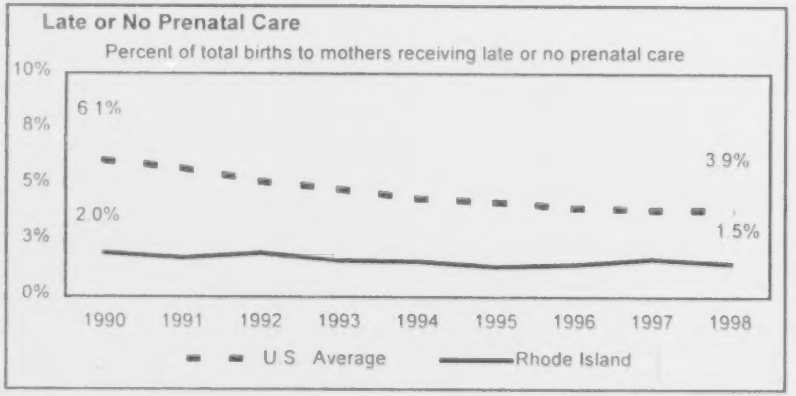
The yearly number of births in Rhode Island declined from 15,195 in 1990 to 12,599 in 1998. At the same time, the share of total births to Hispanics grew from 10 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 1998.* **

Over the 1990-1998 period, there was a marked drop in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy in Rhode Island. Moreover, when compared with the national average in 1998, the children of Rhode Island got off to a healthier start to life on five of eight measures, including the proportion of births to women who received late or no prenatal care (see figure). However, the share of births to unmarried women climbed above the national average during the 1990s.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** During the 1990-1998 period, teen births consistently made up a somewhat smaller share of births in Rhode Island than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 11 percent of births in Rhode Island were to teenagers, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** Although the percentage of teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated, this percentage was similar in 1990 and 1998. In 1998, Rhode Island was below the U.S. average, as 19 percent of teen births in Rhode Island were repeat teen births, compared with 22 percent in the nation overall.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Rhode Island saw a striking rise in the proportion of births to unmarried women, from 26 percent in 1990 to 34 percent in 1998. The share of Rhode Island births to unmarried women went from below the national average in 1990 to above it by 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** There was a drop in the percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education in Rhode Island, from a high of 20 percent in 1991 to 15 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, births to women with less than 12 years of education were notably less common in Rhode Island than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, Rhode Island was consistently below the U.S. average in the proportion of births to women who received late or no prenatal care. In 1998, 2 percent of Rhode Island births were to women who received late or no prenatal care, compared with a national average of 4 percent.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** There was a sizable drop in the share of Rhode Island births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 22 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 1998. However, smoking during pregnancy remained more common in Rhode Island than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of births that were low-birthweight in Rhode Island rose from 6 percent in the early 1990s to 8 percent in 1998. This change brought Rhode Island from below the national average in 1990 to matching it by 1998.
- **Preterm births.** The percentage of Rhode Island births that were preterm fluctuated during the 1990s, increasing from a low of 9 percent in 1991 to 11 percent in 1998. There was a similar rise in the national average, and preterm births remained somewhat less prevalent in Rhode Island than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period.

In summary, Rhode Island saw a considerable increase during the 1990s in the percentage of births to unmarried women. On the other hand, there was a sharp drop in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy. Furthermore, when compared with the national average in 1998, Rhode Island's children got off to a healthier start to life on five of eight measures, including the proportion of births to women who received late or no prenatal care.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** Hispanic origin was not reported or unknown for 13 percent of total births in 1998 -- up from only 5 percent in 1990. Consequently, the distribution of births by Hispanic origin is less reliable during the late 1990s. Over 90 percent of births with unknown Hispanic origin in 1998 were to white women.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Rhode Island		10.5	9.8	9.8	10.4	10.6	10.1	10.4	10.7	10.5
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Rhode Island		21.9	26.4	22.5	22.7	21.1	20.3	21.2	19.9	19.2
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Rhode Island		26.3	27.6	29.6	31.7	32.1	31.1	33.3	33.1	33.9
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Rhode Island		19.2	19.7	19.3	18.3	17.7	16.5	16.5	16.4	15.5
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Rhode Island		2.0	1.7	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.5
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Rhode Island		22.4	21.5	20.4	19.0	18.5	16.6	16.4	16.2	15.2
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Rhode Island		6.2	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.8	6.9	7.4	7.6
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Rhode Island		9.6	8.8	9.6	9.5	9.9	9.5	9.5	10.0	10.7
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Rhode Island** ***	White non-Hispanic	11,300	11,044	10,408	9,624	9,231	8,256	8,210	7,742	7,743
		Black non-Hispanic	1,019	1,022	1,017	925	946	683	750	777	828
		Hispanic	1,560	1,400	1,553	1,594	1,623	1,554	1,667	1,780	1,865
		Other	1,316	1,268	1,522	1,833	1,666	2,283	2,025	2,156	2,163
		Total	**15,195**	**14,734**	**14,500**	**13,976**	**13,466**	**12,776**	**12,652**	**12,455**	**12,599**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**See footnote ** in text.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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South Carolina

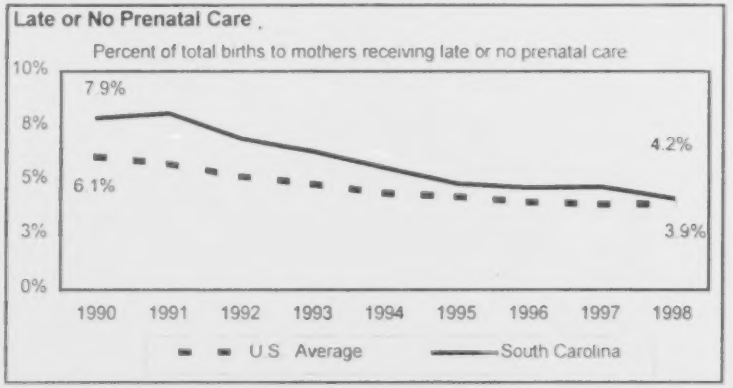
The yearly number of births in South Carolina decreased from 58,610 in 1990 to 50,926 in 1995, and then rose to 53,877 in 1998. White births accounted for 61 percent of total births in 1998, while black births accounted for 35 percent.*

During the 1990-1998 period, there were improvements in five of eight measures of a healthy start to life, including a dramatic reduction in the percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care (see figure). However, when compared with the national average in 1998, the children of South Carolina got off to a significantly less healthy start to life on six of eight measures.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Despite a slight overall decrease in the percentage of births to teens, teenagers continued to account for a markedly larger share of births in South Carolina than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990s. In 1998, 16 percent of births in South Carolina were to teen mothers, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** Births to young women who already had a child became a smaller share of all teen births in South Carolina during the 1990s, falling from a high of 27 percent in 1992 to a low of 19 percent in 1995. The percentage then rose to 21 percent in 1998, similar to the 1998 national average.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a sizable increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women in South Carolina that mirrored the rise in the U.S. average. Unmarried women accounted for 39 percent of South Carolina births in 1998, compared with 33 percent in 1990. South Carolina remained above the U.S. average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low maternal education.** The share of South Carolina births to women with less than 12 years of education was similar to the national average throughout the 1990s. In 1998, these births made up 22 percent of total births both in South Carolina and in the nation as a whole.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care fell by nearly half, from 8 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 4 percent in 1998. This change closed the gap between South Carolina and the national average.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** During the 1990s, there was a large drop in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy in South Carolina, mirroring the downward trend in the U.S. average. Births to women who smoked during pregnancy made up 14 percent of South Carolina births in 1998, compared with 19 percent in 1990.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight births remained more prevalent in South Carolina than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 10 percent of births in South Carolina were low-birthweight, compared with 8 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births were consistently more common in South Carolina than in the nation as a whole during the 1990s. In 1998, preterm births accounted for 14 percent of births in South Carolina, compared with 12 percent in the nation overall.

In summary, South Carolina saw improvements on five of eight measures of a healthy start to life during the 1990-1998 period. Particularly striking were drops in the percentages of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and births to women who received late or no prenatal care. At the same time, however, there was an increase in the proportion of births to unmarried women. Moreover, the percentages of teen, low-birthweight, and preterm births remained higher than the respective national averages in 1998.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	South Carolina		17.1	17.0	16.6	16.2	17.0	17.3	16.8	16.4	16.0
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	South Carolina.		26.0	26.4	26.9	24.4	20.6	19.4	20.5	20.8	21.3
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	South Carolina		32.7	34.7	35.5	36.0	36.8	37.4	37.3	38.0	38.8
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	South Carolina		24.2	24.6	24.0	23.1	22.5	22.1	22.1	22.1	22.0
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	South Carolina		7.9	8.1	6.9	6.3	5.6	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.2
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	South Carolina		19.5	18.0	17.1	16.5	15.0	14.8	14.3	13.9	13.7
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	South Carolina		8.7	9.2	9.0	9.3	9.2	9.3	9.2	9.2	9.5
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	South Carolina		12.3	12.9	12.8	12.6	12.4	12.5	12.3	12.6	13.6
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	South Carolina**	White non-Hispanic	35,055	34,039	33,379	32,116	31,397	31,127	31,427	31,971	32,885
		Black non-Hispanic	22,336	22,404	21,535	20,482	19,380	18,393	17,973	18,382	18,840
		Hispanic	571	599	625	617	643	763	973	1,129	1,307
		Other	648	530	653	620	623	643	744	732	845
		Total	**58,610**	**57,572**	**56,192**	**53,835**	**52,043**	**50,926**	**51,117**	**52,214**	**53,877**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

South Dakota

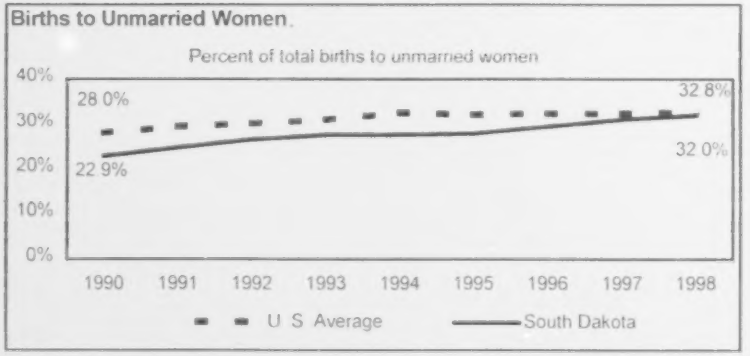
The yearly number of births in South Dakota was similar in 1990 and 1998. There were 10,999 births in 1990 and 10,288 births in 1998. Throughout this time, births to whites accounted for the vast majority of South Dakota births, including 80 percent in 1998.* In 1998, American Indians (included in Other) accounted for 17 percent of South Dakota births.

Over the 1990-1998 period, South Dakota saw a sizable drop in the share of teen births to young women who were already mothers and a substantial increase in the share of all births to unmarried women (see figure). When compared with the 1998 U.S. average, the children of South Dakota got off to a significantly healthier start to life on five of the seven available measures.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teenagers accounted for between 11 percent and 12 percent of births in South Dakota during the 1990-1998 period. At 12 percent in 1998, South Dakota was not significantly different from the national average.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of South Dakota teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s, undergoing a marked overall drop that outpaced a similar trend in the U.S. average. Repeat teen births made up 17 percent of South Dakota teen births in 1998, compared with the U.S. average of 22 percent.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The proportion of births to unmarried women in South Dakota increased from 23 percent in 1990 to 32 percent in 1998, outpacing the increase in the national average. By 1998, the proportion of births to unmarried women in South Dakota virtually matched the U.S. average.
- **Low maternal education.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, births to women with less than 12 years of education made up a substantially smaller share of total births in South Dakota than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 16 percent of South Dakota births were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with the U.S. average of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** South Dakota experienced a marked decrease in the percentage of births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care, mirroring the downward trend in the U.S. average. Births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care dropped from 5 percent in 1990-1993 to 3 percent by 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Data on smoking during pregnancy were not available for South Dakota births.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, South Dakota was below the national average in the percentage of babies born at a low birthweight. In 1998, 6 percent of births in South Dakota were low-birthweight, compared with 8 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** There was an increase in the percentage of South Dakota births that were preterm, from 9 percent in 1990-1995 to 11 percent in 1998. Despite this change, preterm births remained slightly less prevalent in South Dakota than in the U.S. overall in 1998.

In summary, over the 1990-1998 period, South Dakota experienced marked improvements in two important measures of a healthy beginning to life: the proportion of teen births that were repeat births and the share of all births to women who received late or no prenatal care. Furthermore, when compared with the 1998 U.S. average, the children of South Dakota got off to a significantly healthier start to life on five of seven available indicators. However, there were also rises in the percentages of births to unmarried women and births that were preterm during the nine-year period.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	South Dakota		10.8	11.0	11.4	11.1	11.4	11.4	11.5	12.2	12.0
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	South Dakota		23.7	19.8	20.5	19.3	16.6	19.0	16.6	16.0	17.2
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	South Dakota		22.9	24.8	26.6	27.7	27.7	28.0	29.5	31.1	32.0
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	South Dakota		15.2	15.9	16.0	15.1	15.6	15.0	15.4	15.8	15.5
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	South Dakota		4.9	4.7	5.0	4.8	3.9	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.2
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	South Dakota**		N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	South Dakota		5.1	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.9	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.8
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	South Dakota		8.9	8.8	9.0	8.8	9.3	9.5	10.0	10.2	10.8
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	South Dakota***	White non-Hispanic	9,076	9,030	9,008	8,721	8,661	8,590	8,520	8,284	8,252
		Black non-Hispanic	68	54	74	76	76	97	80	89	82
		Hispanic	113	97	109	122	124	116	146	141	153
		Other	1,742	1,765	1,827	1,800	1,646	1,672	1,727	1,659	1,801
		Total	**10,999**	**10,946**	**11,018**	**10,719**	**10,507**	**10,475**	**10,473**	**10,173**	**10,288**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**N.A. = Not Available. See Appendix 2 for more details.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Tennessee

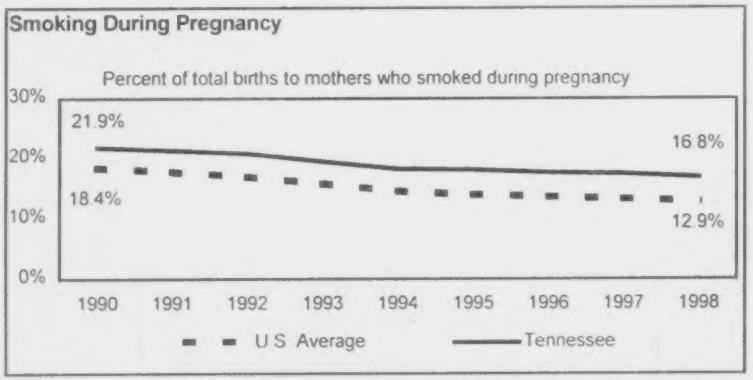
The yearly number of births in Tennessee decreased from 74,962 in 1990 to 73,017 in 1993 before increasing to 77,396 by 1998. While the number of births to both whites and Hispanics increased from 1990 to 1998, births to blacks decreased slightly.* During the 1990s, whites accounted for about three out of every four births in Tennessee.

During the 1990s, Tennessee saw improvements on five of eight measures of a healthy start to life, including a sizable decline in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy (see figure). However, there was also a sharp increase in the share of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births became a smaller share of Tennessee births, decreasing from 18 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 16 percent in 1997 and 1998. However, Tennessee remained substantially above the steady U.S. average of 13 percent throughout the 1990s.
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of teen births to young women who were already mothers in Tennessee fell from a high of 26 percent in 1991 to 22 percent in 1996 through 1998. Tennessee was on par with the national average in 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Over the 1990-1998 period, there was a marked rise in the percentage of Tennessee births to unmarried women that paralleled a similar trend in the nation as a whole. While births to unmarried women accounted for 30 percent of Tennessee births in 1990, they accounted for 35 percent in 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** Tennessee experienced a sizable reduction in the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education, from 26 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 22 percent in 1995 through 1998. This decrease closed the gap between Tennessee and the national average over the nine-year period.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care accounted for 5 percent of Tennessee births in 1990 and 4 percent of births from 1991 through 1998. Births to women receiving late or no prenatal care made up a slightly smaller percentage of births in Tennessee than in the nation as a whole in 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** There was a striking decline in the proportion of Tennessee births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy over the 1990s, from 22 percent in 1990 to 17 percent in 1998. Despite this change, Tennessee remained above the national average throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight births accounted for 8 percent of Tennessee births in 1990 and 9 percent of births thereafter. Babies born at a low birthweight made up a consistently larger share of births in Tennessee than in the nation as a whole throughout this time.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births were more common in Tennessee than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s. In 1998, 14 percent of babies in Tennessee were preterm, compared with 12 percent in the U.S. overall.

In summary, when compared with the U.S. average, the children of Tennessee got off to a significantly less healthy start to life on five of eight indicators in 1998. Moreover, there was a substantial increase in the share of births to unmarried women over the 1990-1998 period. At the same time, however, Tennessee saw a number of improvements—including sizable reductions in the percentages of teen births to young women who were already mothers, births to mothers with less than 12 years of education, and births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Tennessee		17.6	17.7	16.9	16.9	17.4	16.9	16.8	16.3	15.9
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Tennessee		24.8	26.0	25.9	24.3	22.6	21.4	22.0	21.8	22.0
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Tennessee		30.2	32.2	32.7	33.6	33.4	33.1	33.4	34.1	34.9
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Tennessee		25.9	26.1	25.3	24.0	23.4	22.4	22.3	22.1	22.1
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Tennessee		4.7	4.4	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.6
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Tennessee		21.9	21.4	20.8	19.5	18.2	18.1	17.6	17.4	16.8
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Tennessee		8.2	8.8	8.5	8.8	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	9.1
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Tennessee		12.6	13.0	12.6	13.4	13.3	13.0	12.6	13.1	13.6
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Tennessee**	White non-Hispanic	56,178	55,525	54,700	53,896	54,783	54,875	55,120	55,288	57,345
		Black non-Hispanic	17,582	17,797	17,490	17,550	16,576	16,130	15,985	16,297	16,853
		Hispanic	444	481	595	694	845	1,111	1,425	1,721	1,997
		Other	758	707	829	877	987	1,057	1,224	1,172	1,201
		Total	**74,962**	**74,510**	**73,614**	**73,017**	**73,191**	**73,173**	**73,754**	**74,478**	**77,396**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown

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Texas

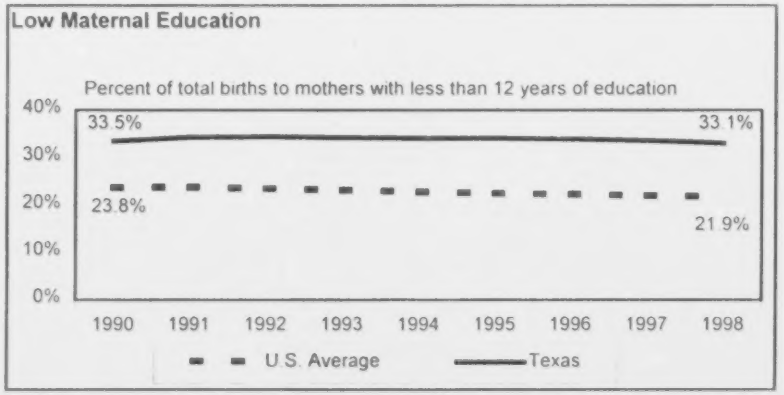
The yearly number of births in Texas increased from 316,423 in 1990 to 342,283 in 1998. This rise was due to a 30 percent increase in the number of births to Hispanics, who accounted for 44 percent of Texas births in 1998, compared with 37 percent in 1990.* The number of births to both whites and blacks decreased during this time.

During the 1990s, Texas experienced sizable declines in the share of teen births to young women who were already mothers and in the percentages of all births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and to mothers who received late or no prenatal care. However, the percentage of Texas births to women with less than 12 years of education remained markedly above the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births were more common in Texas than in the nation as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. During this time, between 16 percent and 17 percent of Texas births were to teens, compared with the steady U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** Texas experienced a reduction in the proportion of teen births to young women who were already mothers, from 27 percent in 1990 to around 24 percent in 1996 through 1998. Despite this progress, Texas remained above the national average on this indicator throughout this time.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Births to unmarried women were substantially underreported during 1990-1993 in Texas.** Births to unmarried women made up 29 percent of total births in 1994 and increased to 31 percent by 1998. Texas was slightly below the national average in 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education made up a substantially larger share of births in Texas than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 33 percent of Texas births were to mothers with less than 12 years of education, compared with 22 percent of births in the nation overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Texas births to women who received late or no prenatal care fell by nearly half, from 10 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 5 percent by 1998. This decline narrowed the gap between Texas and the national average on this indicator.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Both Texas and the nation as a whole saw a marked drop in the proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy over the 1990-1998 period, with Texas well below the U.S. average throughout this time. In 1998, 7 percent of births in Texas were to women who smoked during pregnancy, compared with the U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight births accounted for 7 percent of Texas births during the 1990s. Texas was close to the national average throughout this time.
- **Preterm births.** During the 1990s, the percentage of preterm births ranged between 11 percent and 12 percent of Texas births. Texas was just above the national average in 1998.

In summary, Texas saw important declines over the 1990-1998 period in the percentage of teen births that were repeat births and in the shares of all births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care and to mothers who smoked during pregnancy. In addition, births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy made up a substantially smaller proportion of births in Texas than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s. However, when compared with the national average, Texas' children got off to a less healthy start to life on five of eight indicators in 1998.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

** Trends can therefore be examined meaningfully only since 1994. See Appendix 2 for more details.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Texas		15.6	16.0	15.9	16.1	16.5	16.6	16.2	16.1	16.1
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Texas		26.8	25.9	26.2	24.2	23.4	23.2	23.9	24.4	24.1
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Texas**		N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	N.R.	28.9	30.0	30.4	30.7	31.5
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Texas		33.5	34.2	34.4	34.2	34.1	34.1	33.9	33.6	33.1
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Texas		10.0	10.1	9.2	8.4	6.1	5.7	5.4	5.1	5.3
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Texas		10.4	9.6	9.3	8.6	8.4	7.9	7.7	7.4	7.2
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Texas		6.9	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Texas		11.2	11.4	11.0	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.7	12.0	12.4
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Texas***	White non-Hispanic	150,304	146,199	143,915	141,086	139,105	137,816	138,925	137,580	139,980
		Black non-Hispanic	43,121	42,876	42,786	41,417	39,907	38,434	38,497	38,928	39,631
		Hispanic	115,845	121,234	126,357	131,293	133,125	137,131	142,831	146,580	151,487
		Other	7,153	7,437	7,787	8,275	8,977	9,372	10,153	10,886	11,185
		Total	**316,423**	**317,746**	**320,845**	**322,071**	**321,114**	**322,753**	**330,406**	**333,974**	**342,283**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**N.R. – Not Reliable. See text, footnote ** in text, and Appendix 2 for more details.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Utah

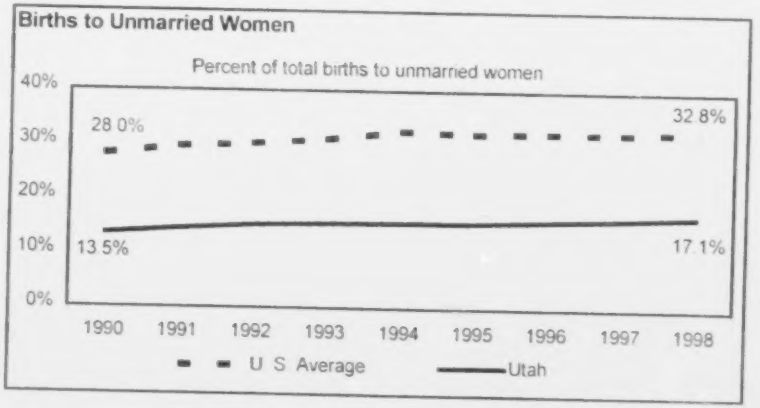
The yearly number of births in Utah rose from 36,277 in 1990 to 45,165 in 1998. During this time, the share of births to Hispanics nearly doubled, from 6 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1998.*

When compared with the 1998 national average, the children of Utah got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators, including the share of births to unmarried women (see figure). However, the share of births to unmarried women rose from 1990-1998, as did the percentages of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education, births to women receiving late or no prenatal care, and both low-birthweight and preterm births.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The share of Utah births to teenagers remained notably lower than the U.S. average during the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, teenagers accounted for 10 percent of births in Utah, compared with a U.S. average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of teen births in Utah to young women who were already mothers fell from 21 percent in 1990 to a low of 16 percent in 1994, and then rose to 18 percent by 1998. The national average also showed an overall decrease, and Utah was below the national average for this indicator throughout the nine-year period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was an increase in the share of Utah births to unmarried women, from 14 percent in 1990 to 17 percent in 1998. However, births to unmarried women remained substantially less common in Utah than in the U.S. as a whole, where unmarried women accounted for 33 percent of births in 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** The proportion of Utah births to women with less than 12 years of education rose slightly from 14 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 1998. However, the 1998 percentage is still much lower than the national figure of 22 percent.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The share of Utah births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care decreased between 1990 and 1993 and then steadily increased thereafter—undergoing an overall rise from 3 percent in 1990 to 4 percent in 1998. This change brought Utah from well below the national average in 1990 to even with it by 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Utah saw a reduction in the already small percentage of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 11 percent in 1990 and 1991 to 9 percent in 1994-1998. Although the U.S. as a whole saw a stronger downward trend in this measure, Utah remained below the U.S. average throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of Utah births with a low birthweight rose from less than 6 percent in 1990 to 7 percent in 1996-1998. However, low-birthweight births remained less prevalent in Utah than in the U.S. as a whole in 1998.
- **Preterm births.** There was a small overall rise in the share of Utah births that were preterm, from 9 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1998. The U.S. as a whole saw a similar increase over the nine-year span, and Utah was below the U.S. average for this indicator in 1998.

In summary, Utah experienced small changes in most measures of a healthy start to life during the 1990-1998 period. When compared with the 1998 national average, Utah's children got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators. These included the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and the percentage of teen births that were repeat births. Although the percentage of Utah births to unmarried women increased from 1990 to 1998, births to unmarried women made up a consistently smaller proportion of births in Utah than in the U.S. overall throughout this time.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Utah		10.3	10.8	10.5	10.8	10.7	10.8	10.7	10.6	9.8
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Utah		20.8	20.4	19.6	18.3	16.1	16.2	17.1	18.7	18.3
	U.S. Average		*24.5*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Utah		13.5	14.4	15.1	15.5	15.7	15.7	16.2	16.6	17.1
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Utah		13.5	13.9	13.8	13.6	13.3	13.5	14.5	14.4	14.6
	U.S. Average		*25.8*	*25.9*	*25.6*	*25.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Utah		3.0	3.0	2.5	2.4	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.5	4.1
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Utah		10.8	10.7	10.1	9.6	9.3	9.2	9.3	8.7	8.7
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Utah		5.7	6.0	5.6	5.9	5.9	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.7
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Utah		8.7	8.6	8.5	8.9	8.9	9.2	9.5	9.9	10.2
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Utah**	White non-Hispanic	32,450	32,050	33,062	32,834	33,714	34,496	36,006	36,534	37,982
		Black non-Hispanic	214	170	208	202	201	231	252	242	263
		Hispanic	2,043	2,175	2,282	2,456	2,704	3,110	3,944	4,298	4,879
		Other	1,570	1,638	1,648	1,635	1,660	1,740	1,885	1,985	2,041
		Total	**36,277**	**36,033**	**37,200**	**37,127**	**38,279**	**39,577**	**42,087**	**43,059**	**45,165**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Vermont

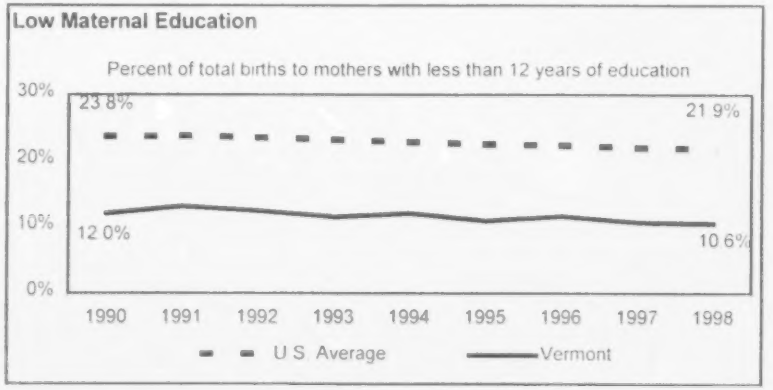
The yearly number of births in Vermont declined during the 1990s, from 8,273 in 1990 to 6,582 in 1998. Throughout this time, the majority of births were to whites. In 1998, births to whites accounted for 96 percent of total births.*

During the 1990-1998 period, Vermont experienced a substantial increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women and a drop in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy. The percentage of births to women with less than 12 years of education was much lower than the U.S. average throughout the 1990s (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, the percentage of births to teens was markedly lower in Vermont than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, teenagers accounted for 8 percent of births in Vermont, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Repeat teen births.** The share of teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s, from a high of 21 percent in 1992 to a low of 14 percent in 1997, but was below the U.S. average throughout this time. In 1998, 17 percent of teen births in Vermont were repeat births, compared with 22 percent in the nation as a whole.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The proportion of births to unmarried women increased dramatically, from 20 percent in 1990 to 28 percent in 1998. Births to unmarried women were less common in Vermont than in the U.S. overall throughout the 1990s.
- **Low maternal education.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, the percentage of births in Vermont to women with less than 12 years of education was about half that in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 11 percent of births in Vermont were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Vermont births to women who received late or no prenatal care fell from 3 percent in 1990 to 2 percent in 1993 through 1998. Throughout this time, Vermont was well below the national average for this indicator.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Vermont experienced an overall drop in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, from 23 percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 1998. However, births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy remained more common in Vermont than in the nation overall throughout the 1990s.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of Vermont births that were low-birthweight rose from 5 percent in 1990 to 7 percent in 1998. Despite this increase, babies born at a low birthweight continued to account for a smaller share of births in Vermont than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the period.
- **Preterm births.** The proportion of Vermont births that were preterm fluctuated somewhat but underwent an overall increase, from 7 percent in 1990 to 9 percent in 1998. However, Vermont remained below the U.S. average throughout the nine-year period.

The children of Vermont got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators in 1998, when compared with the national average. Vermont also experienced a notable decrease during the 1990s in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, although the state remained above the national average throughout the nine-year span. A considerable rise in the share of births to unmarried women during this time is also noteworthy.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Vermont		8.5	9.3	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.2	8.9	8.4	7.9
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Vermont		17.8	16.6	21.2	18.1	16.9	19.3	14.1	13.5	16.6
	U.S. Average		*24.8*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Vermont		20.1	22.7	23.4	24.2	25.3	24.9	26.4	26.1	28.0
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Vermont		12.0	13.1	12.4	11.5	12.0	10.9	11.6	10.7	10.6
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Vermont		3.3	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Vermont		22.6	21.1	18.9	18.9	17.9	17.0	19.0	17.6	17.9
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Vermont		5.3	5.7	5.6	5.7	6.0	5.4	6.2	6.3	6.5
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Vermont		7.1	8.1	8.0	7.8	8.3	8.2	8.5	7.6	9.4
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Vermont**	White non-Hispanic	7,204	6,918	6,672	6,940	6,758	6,268	6,357	6,305	6,297
		Black non-Hispanic	17	23	32	28	25	33	13	22	20
		Hispanic	30	31	30	25	38	27	39	22	37
		Other	1,022	993	1,003	464	556	455	358	258	228
		Total	**8,273**	**7,965**	**7,737**	**7,457**	**7,377**	**6,783**	**6,767**	**6,607**	**6,582**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Virginia

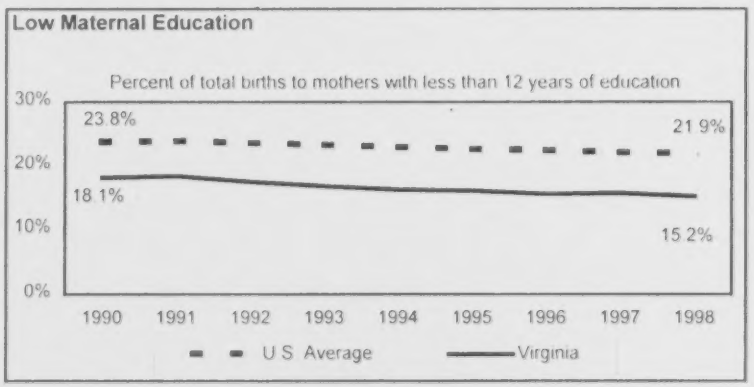
The yearly number of births in Virginia declined from 99,352 in 1990 to 94,351 in 1998. In 1998, births to whites accounted for nearly two-thirds of all Virginia births, while births to blacks accounted for 23 percent. Hispanics accounted for 6 percent of Virginia births in 1998.*

When compared with the 1998 national average, the children of Virginia got off to a healthier start to life on six of eight measures, including the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education (see figure). The state also experienced a number of improvements during the 1990s, the most striking of which was a substantial reduction in the percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births accounted for a smaller proportion of births in Virginia than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 11 percent of births in Virginia were to teen mothers, compared with the national average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** During the 1990s, the share of teen births that were to young women who already had a child fluctuated somewhat between 18 percent and 24 percent of Virginia teen births. Both Virginia and the nation as a whole experienced an overall decline on this measure from 1990 to 1998, with Virginia below the national average throughout this time.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a sizable increase in the percentage of Virginia births to unmarried women, from 26 percent in 1990 to 30 percent in 1998. Nevertheless, Virginia was below the national average for this measure throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education decreased from 18 percent of Virginia births in 1990 to 15 percent in 1998. Virginia was substantially below the U.S. average for this measure throughout this period.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** Already well below the U.S. average in 1990, the share of Virginia births to women receiving late or no prenatal care continued to decrease over the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care accounted for 3 percent of births in Virginia, compared with 4 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The percentage of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy decreased from 16 percent in 1990 to 10 percent in 1998. Moreover, smoking during pregnancy remained less common in Virginia than in the U.S. overall throughout this period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Both Virginia and the nation as a whole witnessed a slight increase in the percentage of babies born at a low birthweight during the 1990s, from 7 percent in 1990 to 8 percent in 1998.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births accounted for between 11 percent and 12 percent of Virginia births during the 1990-1998 period. Throughout this time, Virginia was slightly above the U.S. average, which remained steady at 11 percent.

In summary, Virginia saw improvements on five of eight measures of a healthy start to life over the 1990-1998 period, including considerable declines in the percentages of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and to women who received late or no prenatal care. Furthermore, the proportion of births to women with less than 12 years of education remained remarkably lower than the national average throughout the 1990s. However, the state also saw a marked increase in the percentage of births to unmarried women during this nine-year span.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Virginia		11.7	11.5	11.0	10.9	11.3	11.4	11.0	11.0	10.8
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Virginia		23.0	23.5	23.9	21.2	19.5	18.4	19.1	20.2	20.5
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*25.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.8*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Virginia		26.0	27.9	28.3	29.0	29.2	29.3	28.8	29.3	29.8
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Virginia		18.1	18.4	17.4	16.8	16.3	16.0	15.6	15.7	15.2
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.5*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Virginia		4.6	4.3	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Virginia		15.9	15.3	14.9	14.6	13.9	13.0	11.8	11.3	10.4
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Virginia		7.2	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.7	7.9
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Virginia		11.0	11.1	11.4	11.6	11.5	11.9	11.9	12.1	12.3
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Virginia**	White non-Hispanic	68,944	66,858	66,370	64,359	64,824	62,660	62,192	61,428	62,119
		Black non-Hispanic	23,770	23,733	23,737	23,170	22,176	21,209	20,808	20,956	21,913
		Hispanic	3,459	3,749	3,890	4,135	4,609	4,841	5,150	5,374	5,806
		Other	3,179	3,030	3,201	3,280	3,430	3,868	4,204	4,104	4,513
		Total	**99,352**	**97,370**	**97,198**	**94,944**	**95,039**	**92,578**	**92,354**	**91,862**	**94,351**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Washington

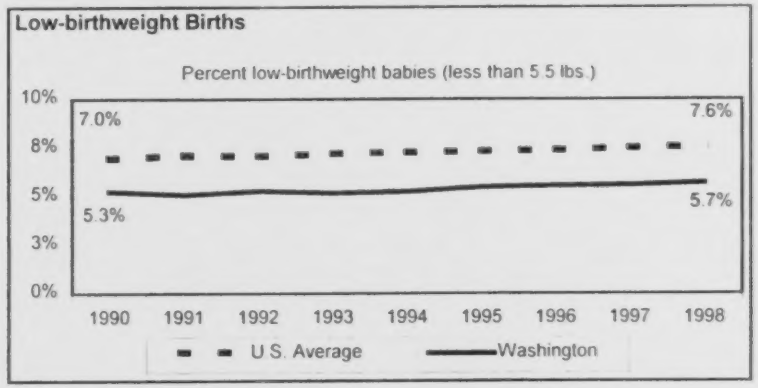
The yearly number of births in Washington was similar in 1990 and 1998. In 1990 there were 79,251 births, while in 1998 there were 79,663. During this time, however, births to whites decreased, from 63,707 in 1990 to 57,214 in 1998, while births to Hispanics rose, from 5,700 in 1990 to 10,074 in 1998. Asian/Pacific Islanders (included in Other) accounted for 7 percent of Washington births in 1998.*

When compared with the national average in 1998, Washington's children got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators, including the percentage of low-birthweight births (see figure). Moreover, the state saw decreases during the 1990s in the shares of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and to women who received late or no prenatal care. At the same time, however, there was an increase in the share of births to unmarried women.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990s, the proportion of Washington births to teens remained somewhat below the national average. In 1998, 11 percent of births in Washington were to teenagers, compared with 13 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Washington teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990s, undergoing an overall decline from a high of 22 percent in 1992 to 18 percent in 1998. The share of Washington teen births that were repeat births remained below the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Washington saw an increase in the share of births to unmarried women, from 24 percent in 1990 to 28 percent in 1998. Births to unmarried women remained less common in Washington than in the nation as a whole throughout the nine-year span.
- **Low maternal education.** Between 1992, when data first became available, and 1998, births to women with less than 12 years of education made up a smaller share of births in Washington than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, 18 percent of births in Washington were to women with less than 12 years of education, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of births in Washington to women who received late or no prenatal care fell from 5 percent in 1990 to 3 percent in 1998. Washington remained below the U.S. average for this indicator throughout the 1990-1998 period.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The share of Washington births to women who smoked during pregnancy dropped from 20 percent in 1990 through 1992 to less than 15 percent in 1997 and 1998. Smoking during pregnancy remained somewhat more common in Washington than in the nation overall throughout the 1990s.
- **Low-birthweight births.** Low-birthweight births were consistently less prevalent in Washington than in the U.S. as a whole during the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 6 percent of births in Washington were low-birthweight, compared with 8 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Preterm births.** There was a small increase in the share of Washington births that were preterm, from 8 percent in 1990 through 1994 to 9 percent in 1998. However, the percentage of preterm births in Washington remained below the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period.

In summary, over the 1990-1998 period, the changes in measures of a healthy start to life in Washington generally mirrored the trends in the nation as a whole. The state saw drops in the percentages of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, births to women who received late or no prenatal care, and teen births that were repeat births. On the other hand, the share of births to unmarried women and the percentage of births that were preterm increased. When compared with the U.S. average, Washington's children got off to a healthier start to life on seven of eight indicators in 1998.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Washington		10.8	10.8	10.6	11.0	11.1	11.5	11.2	11.0	10.9
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Washington		20.7	20.7	21.5	19.3	18.3	17.8	18.7	18.5	17.7
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Washington		23.7	24.9	25.3	26.3	26.0	26.7	27.3	27.1	27.9
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Washington**		N.A.	N.A.	17.7	18.6	18.5	18.7	18.3	18.1	18.1
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Washington		4.8	4.3	4.0	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.4	3.2
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Washington		20.2	19.5	19.9	18.3	17.0	16.2	16.0	14.6	14.6
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Washington		5.3	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.7
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Washington		8.4	8.4	8.3	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.9	9.5
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Washington***	White non-Hispanic	63,707	62,567	61,224	59,636	57,511	56,839	56,950	56,617	57,214
		Black non-Hispanic	2,759	2,887	2,993	3,036	2,880	2,757	2,886	2,968	2,888
		Hispanic	5,700	6,492	7,182	7,708	8,108	8,502	8,930	9,336	10,074
		Other	7,085	7,765	8,051	8,265	8,859	9,130	9,179	9,269	9,487
		Total	**79,251**	**79,711**	**79,450**	**78,645**	**77,358**	**77,228**	**77,945**	**78,190**	**79,663**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**N.A. = Not Available. See Appendix 2 for more details.

***The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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West Virginia

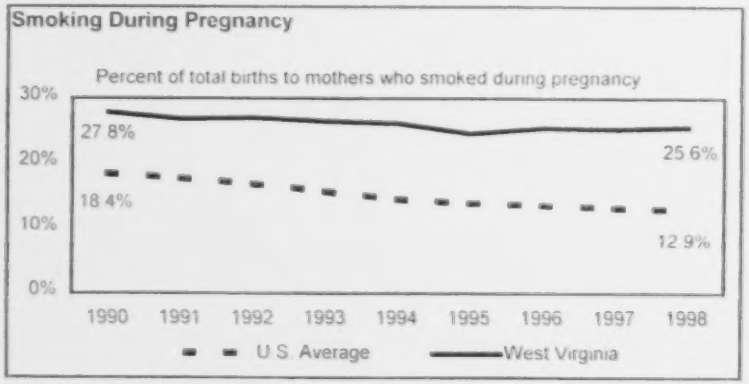
The yearly number of births in West Virginia decreased from 22,585 in 1990 to 20,747 in 1998. Whites accounted for 95 percent of all births in 1998, while blacks accounted for 4 percent. These percentages remained constant throughout the 1990-1998 period.*

During this nine-year span, West Virginia saw a substantial drop in the already small share of births to women who received late or no prenatal care. At the same time, however, there were marked increases in the percentages of preterm births and births to unmarried women. Moreover, the proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy remained strikingly higher than the national average throughout this period (see figure).

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Teen births became a somewhat smaller share of West Virginia births during the 1990s, falling overall from 18 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 1998. Despite this change, the percentage of births to teens in West Virginia remained notably above the national average throughout the 1990s.
- **Repeat teen births.** The proportion of West Virginia teen births to young women who already had a child remained somewhat below the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 19 percent of teen births in West Virginia were repeat births, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Births to unmarried women.** There was a substantial increase in the share of West Virginia births to unmarried women, from 25 percent in 1990 to 32 percent in 1998. The nation as a whole experienced a somewhat weaker upward trend, and the percentage of West Virginia births to unmarried women went from below the national average in 1990 to even with it in 1998.
- **Low maternal education.** West Virginia saw a sizable decline in the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education, from more than 25 percent in 1990 and 1991 to less than 21 percent in 1998. This change brought West Virginia from just above the U.S. average in 1990 to just below it by 1998.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of West Virginia births to women who received late or no prenatal care fell by more than half, from 6 percent in 1990 to less than 3 percent by 1998. Moreover, West Virginia remained below the U.S. average for this measure throughout the nine-year span.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Births to women who smoked during pregnancy were twice as common in West Virginia than in the U.S. as a whole in 1998. In 1998, 26 percent of West Virginia births were to mothers who smoked during pregnancy, compared with a national average of 13 percent.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The percentage of West Virginia babies born at a low birthweight remained close to the U.S. average throughout the 1990-1998 period. At 8 percent in 1998, West Virginia was just above the national average.
- **Preterm births.** Preterm births became a larger share of West Virginia births during the 1990s, rising from 10 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1997 and 1998. This change brought West Virginia from below the U.S. average in 1990 to above it by 1998.

In summary, West Virginia experienced a dramatic reduction in the percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care and remained below the U.S. average for this indicator throughout the 1990-1998 period. The state also saw notable drops during this time in the shares of births to teens and to women with less than 12 years of education. However, there were increases in the proportion of births to unmarried women and in the percentages of preterm and low-birthweight births. Throughout the nine-year period, smoking during pregnancy was substantially more common in West Virginia than in the nation as a whole.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	West Virginia		17.8	17.6	17.2	17.6	17.4	17.2	16.7	15.9	15.7
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	West Virginia		20.4	19.4	20.8	18.2	18.3	17.7	18.2	18.9	18.6
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	West Virginia		25.4	26.8	27.7	29.0	30.2	30.5	31.3	31.3	32.4
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	West Virginia		25.5	25.6	24.8	23.9	22.6	22.0	21.5	21.0	20.6
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	West Virginia		5.7	4.9	4.2	3.7	3.4	3.0	2.7	3.1	2.6
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	West Virginia		27.8	26.8	27.0	26.5	26.1	24.6	25.5	25.3	25.6
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	West Virginia		7.1	6.8	7.2	7.2	7.5	7.9	8.0	8.3	8.0
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	West Virginia		9.9	10.1	10.3	10.7	10.7	11.2	11.4	12.4	12.4
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	West Virginia**	White non-Hispanic	21,545	21,525	21,185	20,771	20,377	20,162	19,757	19,778	19,728
		Black non-Hispanic	859	801	812	815	794	806	738	744	757
		Hispanic	73	73	75	81	106	90	125	82	93
		Other	108	109	98	125	98	104	130	126	169
		Total	**22,585**	**22,508**	**22,170**	**21,792**	**21,375**	**21,162**	**20,750**	**20,730**	**20,747**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

Wisconsin

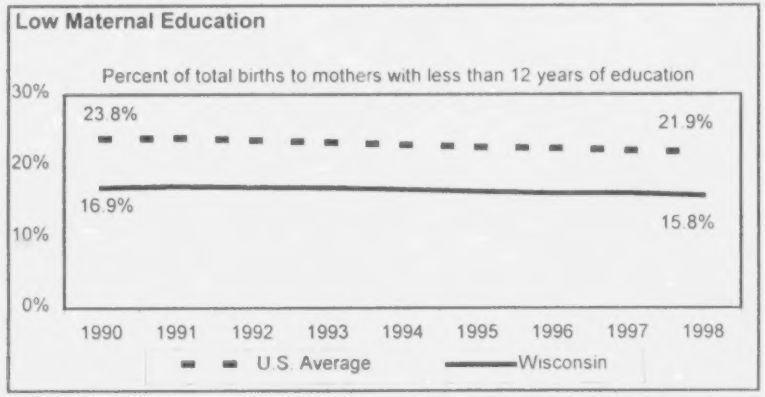
The yearly number of births in Wisconsin decreased from 72,895 in 1990 to 67,450 in 1998. The number of births to Hispanics nearly doubled during this time, accounting for 5 percent of Wisconsin births in 1998, compared with 3 percent in 1990. Concurrently, the number of births to whites and blacks decreased.*

When compared with the national average in 1998, Wisconsin's children got off to a significantly healthier start to life on six of eight indicators, including the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education (see figure). The proportion of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, however, was well above the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period. During this nine-year span, the changes that Wisconsin saw in measures of a healthy start to life tended to mirror changes in the U.S. average.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, teen births made up a smaller share of births in Wisconsin than in the nation as a whole. In 1998, 10 percent of Wisconsin births were to teens, compared with a national average of 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The percentage of Wisconsin teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated, undergoing an overall drop from 25 percent in 1990 to 21 percent in 1998. Wisconsin was even with the U.S. average for this indicator in 1998.
- **Births to unmarried women.** Wisconsin experienced a rise in the share of births to unmarried women, from 24 percent in 1990 to 28 percent in 1998. However, births to unmarried women remained less common in Wisconsin than in the nation as a whole throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low maternal education.** Births to women with less than 12 years of education made up a smaller share of births in Wisconsin than in the U.S. as a whole throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, these births accounted for 16 percent of births in Wisconsin, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** There was a small decrease in the percentage of births to women who received late or no prenatal care in Wisconsin, from 4 percent in 1990 to 3 percent by 1998. In 1998, this percentage was just below the national average of 4 percent.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** Wisconsin experienced a drop in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy, from 23 percent in 1990 to 18 percent in 1998. However, smoking during pregnancy remained markedly more common in Wisconsin than in the nation as a whole throughout the nine-year period.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The percentage of Wisconsin babies born at a low birthweight remained below the national average throughout the 1990-1998 period. In 1998, 7 percent of births in Wisconsin were low-birthweight, compared with 8 percent in the nation overall.
- **Preterm births.** The share of Wisconsin births that were preterm increased from 9 percent in 1990 to 11 percent in 1998. However, preterm births remained somewhat less prevalent in Wisconsin than in the U.S. as a whole in 1998.

In summary, Wisconsin saw marked drops during the 1990-1998 period in the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy and in the percentage of teen births that were repeat births. Moreover, the proportion of births to women with less than 12 years of education was dramatically lower than the U.S. average throughout this nine-year period. On the other hand, there were sizable increases in the percentages of preterm births and births to unmarried women, and the share of births to women who smoked during pregnancy remained well above the national average throughout the 1990s.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Wisconsin		10.2	10.3	10.2	10.4	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.5
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Wisconsin		25.2	25.5	25.7	24.6	21.8	20.2	20.7	19.6	21.1
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Wisconsin		24.2	25.3	26.1	27.1	27.2	27.4	27.4	28.1	28.5
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Wisconsin		16.9	17.1	17.0	16.9	16.6	16.3	16.1	16.1	15.8
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Wisconsin		3.8	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.4
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Wisconsin		22.9	22.6	21.7	20.8	19.6	18.9	18.1	17.8	17.8
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Wisconsin		5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.4	6.0	6.3	6.4	6.5
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Wisconsin		9.2	9.6	9.2	9.6	10.2	9.7	9.7	10.3	10.5
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Wisconsin**	White non-Hispanic	61,496	60,374	58,558	57,720	56,419	55,365	54,863	54,292	54,636
		Black non-Hispanic	7,108	7,154	7,265	7,128	6,814	6,476	6,386	6,366	6,490
		Hispanic	1,866	1,950	2,132	2,175	2,401	2,856	3,139	3,207	3,641
		Other	2,425	2,593	2,715	2,744	2,648	2,782	2,718	2,692	2,683
		Total	**72,895**	**72,071**	**70,670**	**69,767**	**68,282**	**67,479**	**67,106**	**66,557**	**67,450**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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Wyoming

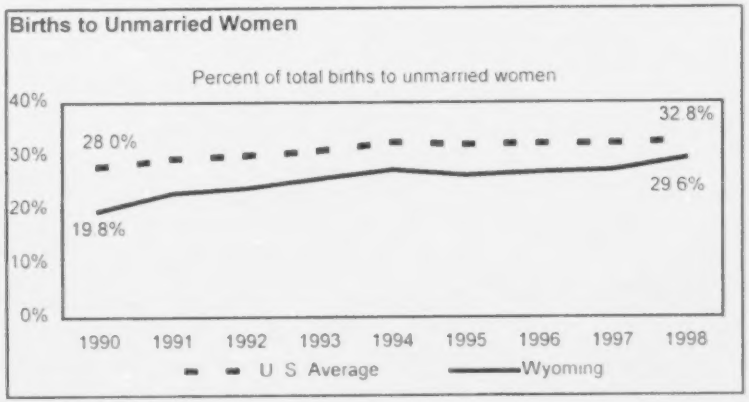
The yearly number of births in Wyoming decreased from 6,985 in 1990 to 6,252 in 1998. In 1998, births to whites accounted for 85 percent of Wyoming births.*

Wyoming saw a remarkable increase over the 1990-1998 period in the share of births to unmarried women (see figure). Moreover, throughout this time, smoking during pregnancy was dramatically more common in Wyoming than in the U.S. as a whole. On the other hand, the share of births to women with less than 12 years of education was below the U.S. average in 1998.

More specifically:

- **Teen births.** The percentage of Wyoming births to teens fluctuated during the 1990s but increased overall, from 14 percent in 1990 to 16 percent in 1998. The relatively stable U.S. average was considerably lower at 13 percent.
- **Repeat teen births.** The share of Wyoming teen births to young women who were already mothers fluctuated during the 1990-1998 period but remained below the national average throughout the nine-year span. In 1998, 18 percent of teen births in Wyoming were repeat births, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Births to unmarried women.** The proportion of Wyoming births to unmarried women rose from 20 percent in 1990 to 30 percent in 1998. While births to unmarried women remained somewhat less common in Wyoming than in the U.S. as a whole in 1998, this change narrowed the gap between Wyoming and the U.S. average.
- **Low maternal education.** Throughout the 1990-1998 period, births to women with less than 12 years of education made up a smaller share of births in Wyoming than in the U.S. as a whole. In 1998, these births accounted for 17 percent of births in Wyoming, compared with 22 percent in the U.S. overall.
- **Late or no prenatal care.** The percentage of Wyoming births to women who received late or no prenatal care dropped slightly from 4 percent during 1990 through 1992 to less than 3 percent in 1993. However, by 1998 the percentage had returned to 4 percent, matching the U.S. average in 1998.
- **Smoking during pregnancy.** The proportion of births in Wyoming to women who smoked during pregnancy fell from 24 percent in 1990 to a low of 20 percent in 1995, and then rose to 23 percent in 1998. Throughout this time, smoking during pregnancy was substantially more common in Wyoming than in the U.S. as a whole, where 13 percent of births were to mothers who smoked during pregnancy in 1998.
- **Low-birthweight births.** The share of Wyoming babies born at a low birthweight fluctuated but increased overall from 7 percent in 1990 to 9 percent by 1998. In 1998, low-birthweight births were more prevalent in Wyoming than in the U.S. as a whole.
- **Preterm births.** There was an overall increase during the 1990-1998 period in the percentage of Wyoming births that were preterm, despite some fluctuations during this time. The proportion of births that were preterm rose from 10 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 1998, matching the 1998 national average.

In summary, over the 1990-1998 period, Wyoming saw a dramatic increase in the share of births to unmarried women, and smaller rises in the percentages of preterm, low-birthweight, and teen births. In 1998, the proportions of births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy and to teenage mothers were substantially higher than the respective national averages, while the percentages of teen births that were repeat births and of all births to women with less than 12 years of education were relatively low.



* Data for whites and blacks exclude Hispanics. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Trends In Key Indicators, 1990-1998

Indicator*			1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Percent of total births to teens	Wyoming		13.6	14.0	13.2	14.0	14.5	15.2	14.3	14.2	16.2
	U.S. Average		*12.8*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.8*	*13.1*	*13.1*	*12.9*	*12.7*	*12.5*
Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers	Wyoming		18.9	20.9	17.1	16.3	16.7	19.3	14.5	15.9	17.9
	U.S. Average		*24.3*	*24.6*	*25.0*	*23.4*	*21.8*	*21.0*	*21.4*	*21.6*	*21.5*
Percent of total births to unmarried women	Wyoming		19.8	23.1	24.0	25.8	27.5	26.4	27.0	27.4	29.6
	U.S. Average		*28.0*	*29.5*	*30.1*	*31.0*	*32.6*	*32.2*	*32.4*	*32.4*	*32.8*
Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education	Wyoming		17.7	18.2	16.7	16.9	16.3	16.1	15.6	16.3	17.2
	U.S. Average		*23.8*	*23.9*	*23.6*	*23.3*	*22.9*	*22.6*	*22.4*	*22.1*	*21.9*
Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care	Wyoming		3.8	4.1	4.3	2.9	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.7	4.1
	U.S. Average		*6.1*	*5.8*	*5.2*	*4.8*	*4.4*	*4.2*	*4.0*	*3.9*	*3.9*
Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	Wyoming		24.3	24.3	23.6	21.5	21.8	19.8	20.5	20.5	22.5
	U.S. Average		*18.4*	*17.8*	*16.9*	*15.8*	*14.5*	*13.9*	*13.6*	*13.2*	*12.9*
Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 lbs)	Wyoming		7.4	7.0	7.3	7.3	8.8	7.4	8.4	9.0	8.9
	U.S. Average		*7.0*	*7.1*	*7.1*	*7.2*	*7.3*	*7.3*	*7.4*	*7.5*	*7.6*
Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)	Wyoming		10.3	10.4	9.9	10.8	11.4	10.7	10.8	11.4	11.8
	U.S. Average		*10.6*	*10.8*	*10.7*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.0*	*11.4*	*11.6*
Number of births by Race and Ethnicity of mother	Wyoming**	White non-Hispanic	6,079	5,826	5,852	5,713	5,656	5,368	5,441	5,527	5,319
		Black non-Hispanic	64	59	61	60	57	69	48	58	52
		Hispanic	511	497	482	488	460	548	523	538	584
		Other	331	321	328	294	255	276	274	264	297
		Total	**6,985**	**6,703**	**6,723**	**6,555**	**6,428**	**6,261**	**6,286**	**6,387**	**6,252**

*For a complete definition and a list of sources for each of the nine indicators, please see Appendix 2.

**The Other category consists of Asian-Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and whites and blacks where Hispanic origin is unknown.

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RESOURCES

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Appendix 1: States Ranked by Indicator, 1998

Percent of total births to teens

Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
	The Nation	12.5	26	Illinois	12.4
1	Massachusetts	7.2	27	Oregon	12.5
2	New Hampshire	7.7	28	Kansas	12.6
2	New Jersey	7.7	29	Idaho	12.8
4	Vermont	7.9	30	Ohio	13.0
5	Connecticut	8.3	31	Nevada	13.1
6	Minnesota	8.6	31	Delaware	13.1
7	New York	8.8	33	Florida	13.2
8	Maine	9.8	34	Indiana	13.8
8	Utah	9.8	34	Missouri	13.8
8	North Dakota	9.8	36	North Carolina	14.0
11	Maryland	10.2	37	Georgia	15.0
12	Pennsylvania	10.3	38	Arizona	15.1
13	Wisconsin	10.5	39	District of Columbia	15.3
13	Rhode Island	10.5	40	Kentucky	15.4
15	Nebraska	10.6	41	West Virginia	15.7
15	Iowa	10.6	42	Tennessee	15.9
17	Hawaii	10.7	43	South Carolina	16.0
18	Virginia	10.8	44	Texas	16.1
19	Washington	10.9	45	Wyoming	16.2
20	Alaska	11.2	46	Oklahoma	16.3
21	California	11.4	47	Alabama	17.1
22	Michigan	11.6	48	New Mexico	18.2
23	South Dakota	12.0	49	Louisiana	18.4
24	Colorado	12.1	50	Arkansas	18.6
25	Montana	12.3	51	Mississippi	20.0

Percent of teen births to women who were already mothers

Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
	The Nation	21.5	26	Virginia	20.5
1	North Dakota	12.3	27	Connecticut	20.7
2	New Hampshire	14.7	28	Missouri	20.9
3	Maine	14.9	28	Kentucky	20.9
4	Montana	15.7	30	Wisconsin	21.1
5	Massachusetts	16.5	31	Kansas	21.2
6	Vermont	16.6	31	California	21.2
6	Hawaii	16.6	33	Indiana	21.3
8	South Dakota	17.2	33	Michigan	21.3
9	Washington	17.7	33	Ohio	21.3
10	Iowa	17.9	33	South Carolina	21.3
10	Wyoming	17.9	37	Arizona	22.0
12	New York	18.3	37	Tennessee	22.0
12	Utah	18.3	39	North Carolina	22.3
12	Nebraska	18.3	40	Delaware	22.4
12	Minnesota	18.3	41	Florida	22.5
16	West Virginia	18.6	42	Louisiana	22.7
17	Oregon	19.1	43	Nevada	22.8
17	Idaho	19.1	44	Alabama	23.0
19	Rhode Island	19.2	45	Illinois	23.4
20	New Mexico	19.8	46	Arkansas	23.5
21	Alaska	20.1	47	Georgia	24.1
22	Maryland	20.3	47	Texas	24.1
22	New Jersey	20.3	49	Mississippi	24.4
22	Colorado	20.3	50	District of Columbia	28.0
25	Pennsylvania	20.4		Oklahoma*	N.R.

*N.R. - Not Reliable

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Appendix 1: States Ranked by Indicator, 1998

Percent of total births to unmarried women

Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
	The Nation	32.8	26	West Virginia	32.4
1	Utah	17.1	27	California	32.8
2	Idaho	22.0	27	North Carolina	32.8
3	New Hampshire	24.1	27	Pennsylvania	32.8
4	Colorado	25.6	30	Oklahoma	33.2
4	Minnesota	25.6	31	Indiana	33.5
6	Massachusetts	26.1	32	Rhode Island	33.9
7	Nebraska	26.2	32	Michigan	33.9
8	North Dakota	27.0	34	Ohio	34.0
9	Iowa	27.2	35	Missouri	34.1
10	Kansas	27.8	35	Alabama	34.1
11	Washington	27.9	35	Illinois	34.1
12	Vermont	28.0	38	Maryland	34.4
13	New Jersey	28.3	39	Tennessee	34.9
14	Wisconsin	28.5	39	New York	34.9
15	Wyoming	29.6	41	Nevada	35.0
16	Oregon	29.7	41	Arkansas	35.0
17	Virginia	29.8	43	Georgia	36.2
18	Montana	29.9	44	Florida	36.6
19	Kentucky	30.1	45	Delaware	37.1
20	Maine	30.6	46	Arizona	38.4
21	Alaska	31.1	47	South Carolina	38.8
22	Connecticut	31.2	48	New Mexico	44.0
23	Texas	31.5	49	Louisiana	44.9
23	Hawaii	31.5	50	Mississippi	45.4
25	South Dakota	32.0	51	District of Columbia	62.9

Percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education

Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
	The Nation	21.9	24	Kansas	18.1
1	North Dakota	10.0	27	Delaware	18.3
2	New Hampshire	10.3	28	New York	19.2
3	Vermont	10.6	29	Colorado	19.4
3	Minnesota	10.6	30	Missouri	19.6
5	Connecticut	10.9	31	Indiana	20.5
5	Maine	10.9	32	West Virginia	20.6
7	Hawaii	11.2	32	Oregon	20.6
8	Maryland	13.0	34	Florida	21.3
9	Alaska	13.2	35	North Carolina	21.7
10	Massachusetts	13.4	36	South Carolina	22.0
11	Iowa	13.6	36	Illinois	22.0
12	New Jersey	13.9	36	Kentucky	22.0
13	Nebraska	14.5	39	Tennessee	22.1
14	Utah	14.6	40	Arkansas	22.8
15	Pennsylvania	15.1	41	Georgia	23.0
16	Virginia	15.2	41	Oklahoma	23.0
17	Montana	15.3	43	Alabama	23.3
18	Rhode Island	15.5	44	Louisiana	24.5
18	South Dakota	15.5	45	District of Columbia	25.2
20	Wisconsin	15.8	46	Mississippi	26.2
21	Wyoming	17.2	47	New Mexico	28.2
22	Michigan	17.5	48	Nevada	28.3
23	Ohio	17.9	49	Arizona	29.5
24	Washington	18.1	50	California	31.0
24	Idaho	18.1	51	Texas	33.1

Appendix 1: States Ranked by Indicator, 1998

Percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care

Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
	The Nation	3.9	25	Pennsylvania	3.5
1	Rhode Island	1.5	27	Delaware	3.6
2	Maine	1.7	27	Tennessee	3.6
3	New Hampshire	1.9	27	California	3.6
4	Vermont	2.0	30	Oregon	3.8
5	Iowa	2.4	31	Alabama	3.9
5	Massachusetts	2.4	31	Illinois	3.9
7	Kentucky	2.5	31	Louisiana	3.9
7	North Dakota	2.5	34	Mississippi	4.0
9	West Virginia	2.6	34	Indiana	4.0
10	Georgia	2.8	36	Utah	4.1
10	Kansas	2.8	36	Wyoming	4.1
12	Missouri	2.9	38	South Carolina	4.2
12	Minnesota	2.9	38	Ohio	4.2
12	North Carolina	2.9	40	Colorado	4.3
15	Maryland	3.0	41	Idaho	4.4
15	Connecticut	3.0	42	Alaska	4.5
17	Hawaii	3.1	43	New Jersey	4.6
18	Washington	3.2	44	New York	4.8
18	Nebraska	3.2	45	Oklahoma	5.1
18	Montana	3.2	45	Arkansas	5.1
18	South Dakota	3.2	47	Texas	5.3
22	Virginia	3.3	48	Nevada	7.0
23	Michigan	3.4	49	Arizona	7.2
23	Wisconsin	3.4	50	New Mexico	8.5
25	Florida	3.5	51	District of Columbia	10.2

Percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy

Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
	The Nation*	12.9	25	Delaware	14.9
1	District of Columbia	4.8	27	Oregon	15.2
2	Texas	7.2	27	Rhode Island	15.2
3	Arizona	7.6	29	Nebraska	16.3
4	Hawaii	8.5	30	New Hampshire	16.6
5	Utah	8.7	31	Tennessee	16.8
6	Connecticut	9.4	32	Michigan	17.0
7	Georgia	9.7	33	Pennsylvania	17.5
8	Maryland	9.8	34	Wisconsin	17.8
9	Louisiana	10.3	35	Vermont	17.9
10	Virginia	10.4	36	Alaska	18.4
11	Colorado	11.0	37	Montana	18.5
11	New Mexico	11.0	38	Oklahoma	18.6
13	Florida	11.2	39	Iowa	18.9
13	New Jersey	11.2	40	Arkansas	19.0
15	Massachusetts	11.7	41	Missouri	19.1
16	Illinois	11.8	42	Ohio	19.3
17	Minnesota	12.4	43	North Dakota	19.5
18	Alabama	12.6	44	Maine	19.6
19	Nevada	12.8	45	Wyoming	22.5
20	Mississippi	13.0	46	Kentucky	24.8
21	Idaho	13.1	47	West Virginia	25.6
21	Kansas	13.1		California**	N.A.
23	South Carolina	13.7		Indiana**	N.A.
24	Washington	14.6		New York**	N.A.
25	North Carolina	14.9		South Dakota**	N.A.

* California, Indiana, New York, and South Dakota are excluded from the national average.

** N.A. - Not Available

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Appendix 1: States Ranked by Indicator, 1998

Percent low-birthweight births (less than 5.5 pounds)

Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
	The Nation	7.6	23	Pennsylvania	7.6
1	Oregon	5.4	27	Ohio	7.7
2	New Hampshire	5.7	28	Connecticut	7.8
2	Washington	5.7	28	Michigan	7.8
4	Minnesota	5.8	28	Missouri	7.8
4	South Dakota	5.8	28	New York	7.8
4	Maine	5.8	32	Indiana	7.9
7	Alaska	6.0	32	Virginia	7.9
7	Idaho	6.0	34	Illinois	8.0
9	California	6.2	34	New Jersey	8.0
10	Iowa	6.4	34	West Virginia	8.0
11	Vermont	6.5	37	Florida	8.1
11	Nebraska	6.5	37	Kentucky	8.1
11	Wisconsin	6.5	39	Delaware	8.4
11	North Dakota	6.5	40	Georgia	8.5
15	Utah	6.7	41	Colorado	8.6
16	Arizona	6.8	42	Maryland	8.7
17	Massachusetts	6.9	43	North Carolina	8.8
18	Montana	7.0	44	Arkansas	8.9
18	Kansas	7.0	44	Wyoming	8.9
20	Oklahoma	7.2	46	Tennessee	9.1
21	Texas	7.4	47	Alabama	9.3
22	Hawaii	7.5	48	South Carolina	9.5
23	Rhode Island	7.6	49	Mississippi	10.1
23	Nevada	7.6	49	Louisiana	10.1
23	New Mexico	7.6	51	District of Columbia	13.1

Percent preterm births (less than 37 completed weeks of gestation)

Rank	State	Percent	Rank	State	Percent
	The Nation	11.6	26	Arizona	11.4
1	New Hampshire	8.1	27	Oklahoma	11.5
2	Oregon	9.1	27	Michigan	11.5
2	Maine	9.1	27	Indiana	11.5
4	Minnesota	9.2	30	Georgia	11.6
5	Vermont	9.4	31	Ohio	11.7
6	Washington	9.5	32	Wyoming	11.8
7	Idaho	9.6	33	Missouri	12.0
8	Massachusetts	9.8	34	Illinois	12.1
9	Alaska	10.0	35	Virginia	12.3
10	Utah	10.2	36	Texas	12.4
11	Connecticut	10.3	36	West Virginia	12.4
11	California	10.3	38	Kentucky	12.5
13	Wisconsin	10.5	38	New Jersey	12.5
14	North Dakota	10.6	40	Florida	12.6
15	Rhode Island	10.7	40	Delaware	12.6
15	Nebraska	10.7	42	North Carolina	12.7
15	Iowa	10.7	43	Maryland	12.8
18	Kansas	10.8	44	Nevada	12.9
18	South Dakota	10.8	45	Arkansas	13.3
20	Pennsylvania	10.9	46	South Carolina	13.6
20	New York	10.9	46	Tennessee	13.6
22	Montana	11.0	48	Alabama	14.3
23	Hawaii	11.1	49	Louisiana	14.7
24	Colorado	11.2	50	Mississippi	16.0
25	New Mexico	11.3	51	District of Columbia	18.5

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Appendix 2: Definitions, Data Sources, and Reporting Issues

Introduction

This Appendix provides definitions for the measures in this report and for technical terms in the narrative. It also addresses situations where there have been changes or problems in the way data have been collected, coded or reported by state departments of health. Such changes can result in substantial year-to-year changes in statistics that are due, at least in part, to the change in the methodology used to collect and report the data rather than to actual changes in behavior. All data are reported by the mother's place of residence, not the place where the infant was born.

All percentages in the *text* are rounded to the nearest whole percent; all percentages in the state *tables* are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent. Thus, 9.46 rounds to 9 percent in the text and 9.5 percent in the tables.

Definitions and data sources

Births to unmarried women (percent of total births to unmarried women) is the percentage of all births occurring to women who were unmarried at the time of the birth. In 1998, marital status was obtained from a direct question on the birth certificate in 48 states and the District of Columbia. In Michigan and New York, marital status was inferred from other information on the birth certificate. See the next section for more details.

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics. Data for Nevada for 1995 and 1996 only are from the Technical Notes in Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin S.C., Mathews T.J. (1998), "Births: Final data for 1997," *National Vital Statistics Reports*; Vol 47 no 18. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics.

Gap means the difference (measured in percentage points) between a percentage reported for a state and the comparable percentage for the U.S. as a whole. For example, in 1998, 14 percent of births in Alabama were preterm, compared with 12 percent for the U.S. as a whole. In this example, the gap is 2 percentage points.

Late or no prenatal care (percent of total births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care) is the percentage of births that occurred to mothers who reported receiving prenatal care only in the third trimester of their pregnancy, or reported receiving no prenatal care. Birth certificates that did not report information about prenatal care were not included in this calculation. In three states, there were reporting issues in some years. See the next section for more details.

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics.

Low-birthweight births (percent low-birthweight births) is the percentage of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). Births of unknown weight were not included in these calculations.

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics.

Low maternal education (percent of total births to mothers with less than 12 years of education) is the percentage of women who had completed fewer than 12 years of education at the time of the birth. Birth certificates on which maternal education was not reported were not included in this calculation. Data on maternal education were not available for two states in the early 1990s. See the next section for more details.

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics.

Number of births by race and ethnicity of mother contains information about race/Hispanic origin of the mother. On birth certificates, as on most federal data collection forms, the question regarding whether a person is Hispanic is separate from the question asking whether a person is white, black, Asian or Pacific Islander, or Native American. Thus, people are asked to select a racial group and to indicate whether they are of Hispanic origin. A birth to a woman who reported that she was Hispanic and white would usually be included in figures for both of these groups. In order to create mutually exclusive categories, Hispanics were removed from the black and white racial categories in the tabulations presented here. This allows more meaningful comparisons between minorities and the group people typically think of when we say "white."

It should also be noted that these figures represent the race of the mother, not the race of the child. This is important because increasing numbers of children are born to parents of different races.

Births for which Hispanic origin was not reported are included in the "Other" category.

In 1990, Oklahoma did not collect data on Hispanic origin. New Hampshire did not report Hispanic origin until 1993 and did not collect this information reliably until 1994. See the next section for more details.

Appendix 2: Definitions, Data Sources, and Reporting Issues

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics.

Preterm births (percent preterm births) is the percentage of babies born with a gestational age of less than 37 completed weeks. Birth certificates that did not report gestational age were not included in this tabulation.

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics.

Repeat teen births (percent of teen births to women who were already mothers) is the percentage of births that were second or higher order births to mothers who were under the age of 20 at the time of the birth. Birth certificates that did not contain information on birth order were not included in this calculation.

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics.

Significant means *statistically* significant. The number of births reported for an area is essentially a complete count and is not subject to sampling error. (This is also true for births classified by various characteristics.) Nevertheless, when the number of births is used for analytic purposes, the number of events that actually occurred can be thought of as one in a large series of results that *could have* occurred under the same circumstances. When considered in this way, the number of births is subject to random variation.[1]

In this volume, the difference in two percentages is considered statistically significant if the probability that the difference is due to random variation (in the sense of the previous paragraph) is less than 5 percent. All differences explicitly referred to in the text of this volume are statistically significant *whether or not* the term "significant" is present in the sentence.

Smoking during pregnancy (percent of total births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy) is the percentage of women who smoked during pregnancy. In 1998, data for smoking were not collected in NCHS' standard format in California, and not collected at all in New York (except New York City), Indiana, and South Dakota. See the next section for more details. Birth certificates on which information on smoking during pregnancy was not reported were not included in this calculation.

[1] For more information, see Technical Notes in Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin S.C., Mathews T.J., and Park M.M. (2000), "Births: Final data for 1998," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, no. 3. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics.

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics.

Teen births (percent of total births to teens) was calculated by dividing the number of births to women under age 20 by the total number of births to women of all ages. It should be noted that this is not the same as a teen birth rate, which measures the risk that a teenager will give birth. The percentage of total births to women under age 20 is affected by the fertility of women over age 20, as well as the fertility of teenagers.

Sources: 1990-1998 Natality Data Set CD Series 21, numbers 2-9 and 11, National Center for Health Statistics.

Trend, as used in this report, means a general upward or downward change in a percentage over a specific multi-year time period. For example, the decrease in the percentage of Arizona births to mothers who received late or no prenatal care between 1990 and 1998 is a downward trend.

U.S. Average is obtained by dividing total U.S. births with a given characteristic by total U.S. births (as reported by NCHS). For Smoking During Pregnancy, the average is based only on those states with reported data. Data were not available for the following states: California, New York, Indiana, and South Dakota.

Reporting issues

Births to unmarried women.[2] As of 2000, "births to unmarried women are identified by a question on the birth certificates of all but two States. . . . In the two States (Michigan and New York) that use inferential procedures to compile birth statistics by marital status . . . , a birth is inferred as nonmarital if either of these factors is present: a paternity acknowledgment[3] was received or the father's name is missing."

However, in 1990, the first year included in this volume, six states used inferential procedures.[4] Thus, during the 1990-1998 period covered by this volume, four states — California (1997), Connecticut (1998), Nevada (1997),

[2] Unless otherwise indicated, this discussion and all direct quotations are drawn from Ventura, S.J., and Bachrach, C.A. (2000), "Nonmarital Childbearing in the United States, 1940-99," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 48, no. 16. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics.

[3] A paternity acknowledgment is an acknowledgment from a man who is not married to a child's mother that he is the child's father.

[4] Ventura, S.J., and Martin, J.A. (1993), "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1990," *Monthly Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 41, no. 9 (supplement). Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics.

Appendix 2: Definitions, Data Sources, and Reporting Issues

and Texas (1994)—switched from using inferential procedures to using a direct question to identify births to unmarried women.[5] At each of these transition points, there is the potential for the percentage of births to unmarried women to change because of the change in the method of identifying births to unmarried women.

In addition, among those states using inferential procedures, in some states the inferential procedures changed during the 1990-1998 period. For example, in the counts of births to unmarried women submitted by Michigan to NCHS, births with paternity acknowledgments were counted as births to unmarried women beginning in 1994. Thus, there is an undercount of about 25 percent for births to unmarried women in Michigan between 1990 and 1993.

Table A2.1 summarizes the reporting transitions made by each of the affected states by providing the date of each change and the likely effect of the change in reporting as estimated by NCHS. In some cases, these changes have substantial effects on the percentage of births to unmarried women that are included in the tables in this volume. In such cases, trend analysis is either impossible or must be limited to an abbreviated period. All such cases are indicated with footnotes in both the text and the table.

Late or no prenatal care. There were several states in which the percentage of women who received late or no prenatal care changed substantially between two consecutive years. In these situations, we consulted with both NCHS staff and staff of the appropriate state department of health to check into the possibility that reporting problems were responsible, at least in part, for the changes. Table A2.2 summarizes all instances in which reporting problems were documented.

Low maternal education. In 1990 and 1991, Washington and New York State (exclusive of New York City) did not require reporting of educational attainment.

Race and ethnicity. Oklahoma did not ask about Hispanic origin until 1991. New Hampshire began asking for Hispanic origin in 1993, but did not collect this information reliably until 1994. Thus, data on race and ethnicity of births are not included in the table in 1990 for Oklahoma and 1990-1993 for New Hampshire.

In Rhode Island, Hispanic origin was not reported or unknown for 13 percent of total births in 1998—up from only 5 percent in 1990. Consequently, the distribution of births by Hispanic origin is less reliable during the late 1990s than in the early 1990s. Over 90 percent of births with unknown Hispanic origin in 1998 were to white women.

Smoking during pregnancy. Indiana, New York State, and South Dakota did not ask a question on smoking during pregnancy on their birth certificate. California asked it in a form that was not compatible with the standard recommended by NCHS. Oklahoma began reporting smoking data on the birth certificate in 1991, and New York City, a registration area separate from that of New York State, began reporting in 1994.[6]

Repeat teen births. In 1997 and 1998, the number of teen births in which birth order was unknown or not reported was extremely high in Oklahoma. Consequently, the statistics on the percentage of teen births to women who were already mothers are not reliable in those years and are not reported in this volume. Generally, most births with birth order unknown are first births. If it is assumed that most of the births with birth order unknown are actually first-order births, the resulting percentage of repeat teen births for Oklahoma is comparable to that in most other states.

[5] With the exception of Connecticut, these changes took place at the beginning of the year cited. The date of Connecticut's change was June 15.

[6] This paragraph is a direct quotation from Mathews T.J. (1998), "Smoking During Pregnancy, 1990-96," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, vol. 47, no. 10. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics.

TABLE A2.1.

Summary of reporting changes for births to unmarried women, 1990-1998

State	Year of change[7]	Nature of change	Estimated effect of change
California	1995	Changed methodology for inferring mother's marital status by taking into account the naming conventions of Hispanic mothers—especially the use of hyphenated surnames. If the child was given a double surname of the mother's and father's surnames, regardless of sequence, the mother's marital status was coded as "married."	Nonmarital births to Hispanic women in California fell about 17 percent from 1994 to 1995, but nonmarital births declined for other race and ethnic origin groups as well (down 6 percent for non-Hispanic women as a group). This indicates that the drop in Hispanic nonmarital births was not solely the result of the methodological change.
	1997	Began determining mother's marital status by direct question.	Nonmarital births to women aged 15-24 increased, while nonmarital births to older women decreased. These two changes were compensating, so that the overall levels of nonmarital births were only modestly higher in 1997 compared with 1996.
Connecticut	1998 (June 15)	Began determining mother's marital status by direct question as of June 15, 1998. Previously, inferred marital status by comparison of surnames of the parents and child.	The proportion of births to unmarried women was higher (33 percent) in the first six months of 1998 than in the last six months (29 percent). Thus, it appears that the inferential procedures used prior to June 15, 1998, resulted in some overestimation of the number of births to unmarried women.
Michigan	1994	Changed methodology for inferring mother's marital status by taking into account the number of births with paternity acknowledgments.	NCHS estimates that there was underreporting of births to unmarried women of about 25 percent for the 1990-1993 period. Thus, there is substantial discontinuity in the nonmarital birth data between 1993 and 1994.
Nevada	1997	Began determining mother's marital status by direct question in 1997. Previously, inferred marital status by comparing the surnames of the mother, father, and child.	The proportion of births to unmarried women based on the direct question is somewhat lower than the proportion based on the inferential procedures.
New York	1997	New York City changed its method of inferring marital status and began assuming mother is unmarried if the father's name is missing from the birth certificate, or if a paternity affidavit was filed. This change made New York City's methodology consistent with the rest of the state.	Births to unmarried women in New York City (and, thus, New York State) were overstated during 1990 through 1996. (New York City accounts for nearly half of all New York State's births.) The 1997 changes in coding procedures in New York City have resulted in more reliable data for the state.
Texas	1994	Began determining mother's marital status by direct question.	The number of births to unmarried women was underreported during the years 1990-1993. Thus, there is a considerable discontinuity in the data for Texas between 1993 and 1994, when the reported proportion of births to unmarried women increased from 17 to 29 percent statewide.

Sources: Ventura, S.J., Martin, J.A., Curtin S.C., Mathews T.J., and Park M.M. (2000). "Births: Final data for 1998," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, no. 3. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. Ventura, S.J., Bachrach, C.A. (2000), "Nonmarital childbearing in the United States, 1940-1999," *National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 48, No. 16. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

[7] All changes occurred at the beginning of the year unless otherwise indicated.

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Appendix 2: Definitions, Data Sources, and Reporting Issues

TABLE A2.2

Reporting problems with respect to the percentage of women receiving late or no prenatal care

State	Year(s) in which problem occurred	Nature of problem	Implications of problem
Massachusetts	1996	Massachusetts began asking for the exact date of the first prenatal care visit instead of the month prenatal care began.	This change produced more accurate data on the percentage of women receiving late or no prenatal care beginning in 1996. However, the apparent increase in this percentage between 1995 and 1996 may reflect, at least in part, the change in the wording of the question.
Ohio	1997-1998	According to NCHS data for Ohio, the percentage of births for which no prenatal care was reported nearly doubled between 1996 and 1998.[8] Over three-quarters of the reported statewide increase in the percentage of births with no prenatal care occurred in Cleveland and Columbus. In Cleveland, this percentage tripled between 1996 and 1998; in Columbus, this percentage increased nine fold. According to a representative of the Ohio Department of Health, this increase may be associated with incomplete recording of information on prenatal care by several hospitals in Cleveland and Columbus.	Since the increase in the percentage of births in which no prenatal care was recorded may be due to reporting problems, the percentage of women receiving late or no prenatal care in 1997 and 1998 may be overstated and should be viewed with caution.

[8] Source: unpublished tabulation provided by Stephanie Ventura, National Center for Health Statistics.

Appendix 3: Primary Contacts for State KIDS COUNT Projects

The Annie E. Casey Foundation funds a nationwide network of KIDS COUNT projects that provide a more detailed community-by-community picture of the condition of children

Alabama	**VOICES for Alabama's Children** PO Box 4576 Montgomery, AL 36103 **(334) 213-2410** **(334) 213-2413 (fax)** **ltilly *a* alavoices.org** **www.alavoices.org**
Linda Tilly *Executive Director*	
Alaska	**KIDS COUNT Alaska** **University of Alaska-Anchorage** **Institute of Social and Economic Research** 3211 Providence Dr Anchorage, AK 99508 **(907) 786-7744** **(907) 786-7739 (fax)** **afngd *a* uaa.alaska.edu** **www.kidscount.alaska.edu**
Norm Dinges *Project Director*	
Arizona	**Children's Action Alliance** 4001 N 3rd St Suite 160 Phoenix, AZ 85012 **(602) 266-0707** **(602) 263-8792 (fax)** **dnaimark@azchildren.org** **www.azchildren.org**
Dana Naimark *Assistant Director*	

Arkansas	**Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families** 523 S Louisiana Suite 700 Little Rock, AR 72201-4531 **(501) 371-9678** **(501) 371-9681 (fax)** **julesrob *a* swbell.net** **www.aradvocates.org**
Julie Robbins *Director of Communications & Development*	
California	**Children Now** 1212 Broadway Suite 530 Oakland, CA 94612 **(510) 763-2444** **(510) 763-1974 (fax)** **ada *a* childrennow.org** **www.childrennow.org**
Amy Dominguez-Arms *Director of Policy*	
Colorado	**Colorado Children's Campaign** 225 E 16th Ave Suite B-300 Denver, CO 80203 **(303) 839-1580** **(303) 839-1354 (fax)** **kaye@coloradokids.org** **www.coloradokids.org**
Kaye Boeke *KIDS COUNT Coordinator*	

Appendix 3: Primary Contacts for State KIDS COUNT Projects

Connecticut	**Connecticut Association for Human Services**	**Florida**	**Center for the Study of Children's Futures**	**Idaho**	**Mountain States Group**
Amy Sampson	110 Bartholomew Ave	**Susan Weitzel**	**Florida Mental Health Institute**	**Linda Jensen**	1607 W Jefferson St
KIDS COUNT	Suite 4030	*Director*	**University of South Florida**	*KIDS COUNT*	Boise, ID 83702
Coordinator	Hartford, CT 06106		13301 Bruce B. Downs Blvd	*Director*	**(208) 388-1014**
	(860) 951-2212		Tampa, FL 33612		**(208) 331-0267 (fax)**
	(860) 951-6511 (fax)		**(813) 974-7411**		**ljensen@mtnstatesgroup.og**
			(813) 974-8534 (fax)		**www.idahokids.org**
	www.cahs.org		**weitzel@hal.fmhi.usf.edu**		
			www.floridakidscount.org		
Delaware	**University of Delaware**	**Georgia**	**Georgians For Children**	**Illinois**	**Voices for Illinois Children**
	298K Graham Hall		300 W. Wieuca Rd., NW		208 S LaSalle St
Teresa Schooley	Newark, DE 19716	**Ann Grace Marchetti**	Suite 216	**Julie Zasadny**	Suite 1490
KIDS COUNT	**(302) 831-4966**	*KIDS COUNT*	Atlanta, GA 30342	*Director of*	Chicago, IL 60604
Project Director	**(302) 831-4987 (fax)**	*Project Director*	**(404) 843-0017**	*Communications*	**(312) 516-5551**
	terrys@diamond.net.udel.edu		**(404) 843-0019 (fax)**		**(312) 456-0088 (fax)**
	www.dekidscount.org		**ann@georgians.com**		**jzasadny@voices4kids.org**
			www.georgians.com		**www.voices4kids.org**
District of Columbia	**DC Children's Trust Fund**	**Hawaii**	**Center on the Family University of Hawaii – Manoa**	**Indiana**	**Indiana Youth Institute**
	2021 L St., NW		2515 Campus Rd.		3901 N Meridian St.
Sonali Patel	Suite 205	**Marcia Hartsock**	Miller Hall 103	**Karen Ruprecht**	Suite 200
Director of Public Policy	Washington, DC 20036	*KIDS COUNT*	Honolulu, HI 96822	*Director of*	Indianapolis, IN 46208-4046
	(202) 624-5555	*Project Director*	**(808) 956-4136**	*Programs*	**(317) 924-3657**
	(202) 624-0396 (fax)		**(808) 956-4147 (fax)**		**(317) 924-1314 (fax)**
	spatel@dcctf.org		**marciah@hawaii.edu**		**ruprecht@iyi.org**
	www.dcchildrenstrustfund.org		**uhfamily.hawaii.edu**		**www.iyi.org**

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Appendix 3: Primary Contacts for State KIDS COUNT Projects

Iowa	**Child & Family Policy Center** 218 Sixth Ave Suite 1021 Des Moines, IA 50309 **(515) 280-9027** **(515) 244-8997 (fax)** **mcrawford@cfpciowa.org** **www.cfpciowa.org**
Michael Crawford *KIDS COUNT Project Director*	
Kansas	**Kansas Action for Children** PO Box 463 Topeka, KS 66601 **(785) 232-0550** **(785) 232-0699 (fax)** **brunk@kac.org** **www.kac.org**
Gary Brunk *Executive Director*	
Kentucky	**Kentucky Youth Advocates, Inc.** 2034 Frankfort Ave Louisville, KY 40206 **(502) 895-8167** **(502) 895-8225 (fax)** **vsalley@kyyouth.org** **www.kyyouth.org**
Valerie Salley *KIDS COUNT Coordinator*	
Louisiana	**Agenda for Children** PO Box 51837 New Orleans, LA 70151 **(504) 586-8509** **(504) 586-8522 (fax)** **Sjohnson@agendaforchildren.org** **www.agendaforchildren.org**
Shannon Johnson *KIDS COUNT Coordinator*	
Maine	**Maine Children's Alliance** 303 State St Augusta, ME 04330 **(207) 623-1868** **(207) 626-3302 (fax)** **ldavey@mekids.org** **www.mekids.org**
Lynn Davey *KIDS COUNT Director*	
Maryland	**Advocates for Children & Youth** 34 Market Place 5th Floor Bernstein Building Baltimore, MD 21202 **(410) 547-9200** **(410) 547-8690 (fax)** **jenneanr@aol.com** **www.acy.org**
Jennean Everett-Reynolds *KIDS COUNT Project Director*	
Massachusetts	**Massachusetts Citizens for Children** 14 Beacon St Suite 706 Boston, MA 02108 **(617) 969-3235** **(617) 742-7808 (fax)** **barryhock@insidehealthcare.com** **www.masskids.org**
Barry Hock *KIDS COUNT Coordinator*	
Michigan	**Michigan League for Human Services** 1115 S Pennsylvania Ave Suite 202 Lansing, MI 48912-1658 **(517) 487-5436** **(517) 371-4546 (fax)** **janez@mlan.net** **www.milhs.org**
Jane Zehnder-Merrell *KIDS COUNT Project Director*	
Minnesota	**Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota** 200 University Ave. W Suite 210 St. Paul, MN 55103 **(651) 227-6121** **(651) 227-2553 (fax)** **benjamin@cdf-mn.org** **www.cdf-mn.org**
Diane Benjamin *KIDS COUNT Director*	

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Appendix 3: Primary Contacts for State KIDS COUNT Projects

Mississippi

K.C. Caldwell
KIDS COUNT Project Coordinator

Mississippi Forum on Children & Families, Inc.
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Jackson, MS 39202
(601) 355-4911
(601) 355-4813 (fax)
kccald@meta3.net
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Missouri

Cande Iveson
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Citizens for Missouri's Children
621 E McCarty
Suite D
Jefferson City, MO 65101
(573) 634-4324
(573) 634-7540 (fax)
cmcwest@socket.net
www.mokids.org

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Steve Seninger
Director of Economic Analysis

University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Analysis
Missoula, MT 59812-6840
(406) 243-5113
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Nebraska

Janet Johnston
Research Coordinator

Voices for Children in Nebraska
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Suite 103
Omaha, NE 68127
(402) 597-3100
(402) 597-2705 (fax)
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Marlys Morton
KIDS COUNT Project Coordinator

Center for Business and Economic Research
UNLV
4505 S Maryland Pkwy
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(702) 895-3606 (fax)
kidscount@nevada.edu
www.nscce.edu/cber

New Hampshire

Ellen Shemitz
President

Children's Alliance of New Hampshire
2 Greenwood Ave
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Eloisa Hernandez
KIDS COUNT Director

Association for Children of New Jersey
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(973) 643-3876
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New Mexico

Kelly O'Donnell
KIDS COUNT Coordinator

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www.nmadvocates.org

New York

Deborah Benson
Director of Policy Planning & Research

State of New York Council on Children and Families
5 Empire State Plaza
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(518) 473-2570 (fax)
debbie.benson@ccf.state.ny.us
www.capital.net/com/council

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Appendix 3: Primary Contacts for State KIDS COUNT Projects

North Carolina	**North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute**
Joann Haggerty	311 E Edenton St
Research & Data	Raleigh, NC 27601-1017
Director	**(919) 834-6623**
	(919) 829-7299 (fax)
	jhaggerty@intrex.net
	www.ncchild.org

North Dakota	**North Dakota KIDS COUNT University of North Dakota**
Ann Lochner	PO Box 7090
Director	Gillette Hall
	Room 3
	Grand Forks, ND 58202-7090
	(701) 777-4086
	(701) 777-4257 (fax)
	ann_lochner@mail.und.nodak.edu

Ohio	**Children's Defense Fund Ohio**
	52 E Lynn St
David Norris	Suite 400
Communications	Columbus, OH 43215-3551
Manager	**(614) 221-2244**
	(614) 221-2247 (fax)
	dnorris@cdfohio.org
	www.cdfohio.org

Oklahoma	**Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy**
Marlo Nash	420 NW 13th St
KIDS COUNT	Suite 101
Coordinator	Oklahoma City, OK 73103
	(405) 236-5437
	(405) 236-5439 (fax)
	marlonash@oica.org
	www.oica.org

Oregon	**Children First for Oregon**
	PO Box 14914
Tonia Hunt	Portland, OR 97214
Public Policy	**(503) 236-9754**
Director	**(503) 236-3048 (fax)**
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Pennsylvania	**Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children**
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	(717) 236-7745 (fax)
	dollivier@papartnerships.org
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Rhode Island	**Rhode Island KIDS COUNT**
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Director	**(401) 351-1758 (fax)**
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	www.rikidscount.org

South Carolina	**South Carolina Budget & Control Board**
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KIDS COUNT	Columbia, SC 29211
Project Director	**(803) 734-2291**
	(803) 734-1276 (fax)
	bholmes@ogc.state.sc.us
	www.ors.state.sc.us/kc.html

South Dakota	**Business Research Bureau University of South Dakota**
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Project	Vermillion, SD 57069
Coordinator	**(605) 677-5287**
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	ccochran@usd.edu
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Appendix 3: Primary Contacts for State KIDS COUNT Projects

Tennessee	**Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth**
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Texas	**Center for Public Policy Priorities**
Pam Hormuth *KIDS COUNT Project Director*	900 Lydia St. Austin, TX 78702 **(512) 320-0222** **(512) 320-0227 (fax)** **hormuth@cppp.org** **www.cppp.org/kidscount**
Utah	**Utah Children**
Terry Haven *KIDS COUNT Coordinator*	757 East South Temple St. Suite 250 Salt Lake City, UT 84102 **(801) 364-1182** **(801) 364-1186 (fax)** **terryh@utahchildren.net** **www.utahchildren.net**
Virgin Islands	**The Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands**
Dee Baecher-Brown *Executive Director*	PO Box 11790 38A Dronningens Gade St. Thomas, USVI 00801 **(340) 774-6031** **(340) 774-3852 (fax)** **dbrowncfvi@worldnet.att.net**
Virginia	**Action Alliance for Virginia's Children & Youth**
Lisa Wood *KIDS COUNT Project Director*	701 E Franklin St. Suite 807 Richmond, VA 23219 **(804) 649-0184** **(804) 649-0161 (fax)** **lisa@vakids.org** **www.vakids.org**
Vermont	**Vermont Children's Forum**
Carlen Finn *Executive Director*	PO Box 261 7 Court St. 4th Floor Montpelier, VT 05601 **(802) 229-6377** **(802) 229-4929 (fax)** **vtcyf@together.net**
Washington	**Human Services Policy Center Institute for Public Policy & Management University of Washington**
Richard Brandon *Executive Director*	324 Parrington Box 353060 Seattle, WA 98195-3060 **(206) 543-8483** **(206) 616-5769 (fax)** **brandon@u.washington.edu** **www.hspc.org**
West Virginia	**West Virginia KIDS COUNT Fund**
Margie Hale *Executive Director*	1031 Quarrier St. Suite 313 Atlas Building Charleston, WV 25301 **(304) 345-2101** **(304) 345-2102 (fax)** **hn3174@handsnet.org** **www.wvkidscountfund.org**
Wisconsin	**Wisconsin Council on Children & Families**
M. Martha Cranley *KIDS COUNT Coordinator*	16 N Carroll St. Suite 600 Madison, WI 53703 **(608) 284-0580** **(608) 284-0583 (fax)** **mcranley@wccf.org**

Appendix 3: Primary Contacts for State KIDS COUNT Projects

Wyoming	**Wyoming Children's Action Alliance**
Kathy Emmons *Executive Director*	2622 Pioneer Ave Cheyenne, WY 82001 (307) 635-2272 (307) 635-4680 (fax) kemmons@trib.com www.wykids.com

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private charitable organization dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. It was established in 1948 by Jim Casey, one of the founders of the United Parcel Service, and his siblings, who named the Foundation in honor of their mother. The primary mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families. In pursuit of this goal, the Foundation makes grants that help states, cities, and communities fashion more innovative, cost-effective responses to these needs.

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